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THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS CHRONICLE
FOR 1919.

THE
KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS
CHRONICLE

1919

COMMITTEE.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR EDWARD HUTTON, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., *p.s.c.*
(*Chairman*).

LIEUT.-GEN. SIR T. L. N. MORLAND, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

BRIGADIER-GENERAL H. MENDES, C.B.

LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR GUY CAMPBELL, BART.

LIEUT.-COLONEL LEWIS BUTLER, *p.s.c.*

LIEUT.-COLONEL W. J. LONG, C.M.G.

THE ADJUTANTS OF THE FOUR REGULAR BATTALIONS,
AND THE ADJUTANT RIFLE DEPOT.

COLONEL R. BYRON, D.S.O. (*Editor and Hon. Treasurer*).

WINCHESTER :

WARREN AND SON, LIMITED, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS, HIGH STREET.

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It is a matter for regret that the sale of the War Volumes has not come up to the expectations of the Committee, and this is considered to be due to two causes. One, a general feeling of satiety with everything connected with the War, and the other to a lack of knowledge that these volumes have been published.

Time alone can remedy the former, but the latter cause can be overcome by all subscribers and purchasers of the *Chronicle* making an earnest endeavour to make the existence of these War Volumes generally known amongst all Riflemen who served in the War, and to impress upon them what a unique record these books contain of the glorious history of the Regiment.

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ERRATA.—VOL. 1919.

VOL. 1915.—In the Obituary Notice at foot of page 288, 2nd Lieut. F. D. E. Caley's name should be spelt Cayley.

VOL. 1916.—P. 347, for 1916 read 1915.

VOL. 1917.—P. 279, delete line 29.

P. 280, line 31, read "Thornton Smith, A. D., Capt., D.S.O., killed 16/8/17."

VOL. 1918.—P. 304, line 18. This N. C. O. was awarded the D.C.M. 3/4/18, not the M.M. as stated.

P. 332, line 3, read "the late Rev. A. N. C. MacLachlan."

P. 332, line 25, for "Middlesex" read "Manchester"; line 42, same page, note:—the body was found and buried in Dalton Cemetery near St. Quentin.

P. 333, line 43, for "Major" read "Lieut.-Colonel."

THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

"Celer et Audax."

"Louisberg," "Quebec, 1759," "Martinique, 1762, 1809," "Havannah," "Roleia,"
 "Vimiera," "Talavera," "Busaco," "Fuentes d'Onor," "Albuhera,"
 "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Salamanca," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle,"
 "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Punjab," "Mooltan,"
 "Goojerat," "Delhi," "Taku Forts," "Pekin," "South Africa, 1851-2-3, 1879,"
 "Ahmad Khel," "Kandahar, 1880," "Afghanistan, 1878-80," "Egypt, 1882, 1884,"
 "Tel-el-Kebir," "Chitral," "South Africa, 1899-1902," "Defence of Ladysmith,"
 "Relief of Ladysmith."
 North America, 1763-64.

Regular and Special Reserve Battalions.

	<i>Uniform—Green.</i>	<i>Facings—Scarlet.</i>	
1st Battalion (60th Foot)	- - - -	- - - -	<i>Army of Occupation.</i>
2nd " (" ")	- - - -	- - - -	" "
3rd " (" ")	- - - -	- - - -	" "
4th " (" ")	- - - -	- - - -	" "
5th Reserve Battalion	- - - -	- - - -	<i>Demobilized.</i>
11th Service Battalion	- - - -	- - - -	<i>Army of Occupation.</i>
12th " "	- - - -	- - - -	" "
13th " "	- - - -	- - - -	" "
16th Battalion (C. L. B.)	- - - -	- - - -	" "
17th " (British Empire League)	- - - -	- - - -	" "
18th " (Arts and Crafts)	- - - -	- - - -	" "
20th Battalion (British Empire League Pioneers)	- - - -	- - - -	" "
25th " (Pioneers)	- - - -	- - - -	" "

Allied Regiment of Canadian Militia.

63rd (Halifax) Rifles - - - - *Halifax, Nova Scotia.*
 1st Cadet Battalion - 42 and 44, Sun Street, Finsbury Square, E.C.

Colonel-in-Chief.

THE KING.

Colonels Commandant.

1st Battalion - Field-Marshal Rt. Hon. F. W. Lord Grenfell, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G.
 2nd " - Lieut.-Gen. Sir Edward T. H. Hutton, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.
 3rd " - Major-Gen. R. S. R. Fetherstonhaugh, C.B.
 4th " - Lieut.-Gen. Sir William Pitcairn Campbell, K.C.B.

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BY

LIEUT.-COLONEL LEWIS BUTLER, *p.s.c.*,
late The King's Royal Rifle Corps,

Published under the auspices of the Regimental History
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(Governor of British East Africa).

Reprinted from the "Journal of the African Society," 1919.

NOTICE.

The BRIEF HISTORY of The King's Royal Rifle Corps, 1755 to 1915.

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LOUIS DOUGLAS AND GENERAL SMUTS, who at that time did not know he was shortly going to succeed General Smith-Dorrien. I discussed the whole plan of campaign with General Smuts, he not knowing that he was going to have the command. I then went on to Southern and Northern Rhodesia, where we discussed the possibilities of transport and supply with the Administrators of Southern and Northern Rhodesia, and from there we went

* This address was delivered by Major-General Sir Edward Northey, K.C.M.G., C.B., Governor of British East Africa, at a Luncheon-Meeting of the African Society, at which Sir James Hayes-Sadler presided, on November 7th, 1918.

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In about half an hour it is rather difficult to run through anything like the chief points of a campaign that lasted two and a half to three years, but with the aid of the map we might touch upon some points of interest and a few of the difficulties of communication, and so on, which beset us, and which will naturally lead one up to the consideration of the future of those countries. When I was at home wounded at the end of 1915, the situation in German East Africa was that the German main forces were very busy indeed on the British East African Front, always raiding railways and other similar enterprises, while a smaller force was doing the same on the Nyasa-Rhodesia frontier. Expeditionary forces had been arranged to come in from the north under Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, whose place was afterwards taken, on account of his unfortunate illness, by General Smuts. The forces of which I was sent to take command were on a two-hundred-mile front between the north end of Lake Nyasa and the south end of Lake Tanganika, the eastern section of which was held by troops of the King's African Rifles from Nyasaland, with a few South African infantry who had recently come up, and the left hand or western portion was held by North Rhodesian Police and Southern Rhodesian Volunteers, the two forces acting under their own commanders independently of each other, and with no unity of command at all. I landed at Cape Town on December 15th and went up to Pretoria, staying with Lord Buxton, and had interesting conversations with Louis Botha and General Smuts, who at that time did not know he was shortly going to succeed General Smith-Dorrien. I discussed the whole plan of campaign with General Smuts, he not knowing that he was going to have the command. I then went on to Southern and Northern Rhodesia, where we discussed the possibilities of transport and supply with the Administrators of Southern and Northern Rhodesia, and from there we went

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on to Nyasaland, where I discussed the same things with Sir George Smith, the Governor of Nyasaland. I then went from the southern to the northern end of Lake Nyasa to a place called Karonga: thence I walked the whole way from Lake Nyasa to Lake Tanganika and back, inspecting different forces, forming my opinion of things, and sizing up the possibilities of the situation. During three months I walked five hundred and fifty miles, often having to swim through rivers. By the end of April, 1916, I had formed the opinion that the best way I could ensure the security of the Nyasa-Rhodesian Force was by a bold offensive from the south, timing any moves I made with the movements of General Smuts coming in from the north. There were a lot of very interesting points that came up when I arrived on that frontier, which I have not time to go into in detail. There were about two thousand rifles in the force I took over. The German forces in the field at that time consisted of at least 15,000 thoroughly well-trained, disciplined, and organised troops, and there was nothing whatever to have prevented the Germans putting large numbers of those troops on this border, which was held, on a front of 200 miles, by 2000 rifles. The number of the enemy reported on that front when I arrived was 4000, and the fact that there was a superior number of the enemy was borne out by the fact that they were constantly raiding into North-Eastern Rhodesia. The whole of the telegraph wires had been taken away. But by the time I returned to Karonga on May 1st, 1916, I came to the conclusion that the enemy's numbers had been greatly exaggerated. The reason they had been able to raid Rhodesia was that the force opposed to them was content to remain in its positions, and when you read "defensive" to mean "passive defensive," the enemy can do as he likes. It fell to my lot to instil into the troops the right offensive spirit, and to this end I decided to hit at the enemy on every possible occasion. By April I had written the number of the enemy down from 4000 to 1500, and there was no reason why with my force of 2000 I should not do something against them, so I started by putting small patrols across the border, and directly I did that the Germans stopped coming into our territory. I organised the force which had been sitting on the defensive into mobile columns, and sent increasingly larger patrols across the border, with the result that very soon we had practically confined the Germans on that frontier to their defensive positions. On May 25th I advanced along the whole front of 200 miles, and within a fortnight we had occupied all the original German positions, in some cases surrounding them, so that they could not get out at all. By June we had advanced as far as Bismarcks-

berg on the left and New Langenburg on the right. The next offensive was the jumping of Iringa, and this we did just before the Second Division came down under General van Deventer from the north. Everything so far had gone very well. At the time I was striking from Lake Nyasa a brigade of General Smuts', under General Carew, was coming down through Bukoba, and had tried to combine with the Belgians in capturing the German force that had retired to Tabora, the capital of German East Africa. Unfortunately the German force escaped from Tabora, General Carew being unable to get to the south of them in time.

Our operations were greatly hampered by the communications, which were very bad. When I arrived I arranged for thousands of carriers, and received valuable help from the Governments of Nyasaland and Rhodesia. In the first stage supplies and stores had to come by sea to the mouth of the Zambesi, 100 miles from Beira, and be then transferred to little paddle boats which carried them 150 miles up the Zambesi, thence the journey was 160 miles by railway to Blantyre, the capital of Nyasaland. Beyond that there were 140 miles of motor road to get over. There were a few little steamers on Lake Nyasa which had to run 350 miles up and down all the time under such conditions that no Board of Trade would have passed them for a moment! The difficulties of the journey were enormous. Sometimes the boats on the Lake would give in, the next thing would be the breakdown on the railway. Then sometimes the Zambesi got so low that the little boats got stuck up on the sand banks. I am glad to think, however, that despite all the obstacles we had to encounter my troops never had cause to complain that they were starved. The motor roads, of which we made 1500 miles in all, were a great advantage to us later, especially in dealing with superior enemy forces, as the only way we could do this was by extreme mobility. I was enabled constantly to move 200 or 300 men by motor car. It was largely by this means that in November, 1916, I was able to give Major Kraut the knockout, and a very bad one it was. We come now to the stage of operations towards the end of 1916, when General Smuts' troops had got down to the Central Railway and the Belgians had got possession of Tabora. I had then to veer round to the east and south, and we went on driving the enemy down that way. All that time I had to be making new roads in order to head off the enemy. We were working round wheeling to the right, pivoted on Lake Nyasa. It was an advantage to us having the Lake behind us, as we could move troops up and down very quickly. I had a subsidiary line of supply, 700 miles

long, by carrier and canoe transport from Livingstone through Northern Rhodesia to Fife, splendidly organised by the North Rhodesian Government.

Nevertheless, the difficulties of supply were all the time extreme, and the credit due to the people who ran the supply and the transport after it was once organised is very great. While I have this opportunity I would like to say that I can never be sufficiently grateful to the Governments of Nyasaland and Northern and Southern Rhodesia and the various officials for the assistance rendered. I should like further to thank the many people belonging to the different Missionary Societies there. Most of my carrier-transport work was done by Missionaries belonging to the different British Societies and also to the French Fathers; the latter were among the best of my carrier-transport conductors.

After Iringa the operations were carried out towards Mahenge and Liwale, where we came into touch with an enemy force of 300 Europeans and 3000 natives. We got them into such a hole that in trying to get away from us and to join the enemy forces in the extreme south-east, they found themselves driven right into the hands of General van Deventer, and surrendered. The credit of that was chiefly due to the magnificent work of the King's African Rifles, together with some very fine Rhodesian troops, under Colonel Murray, one of the finest soldiers I have ever come across, who I regret to say is now very ill.

I now come to the final phase of the campaign, when we drove General von Lettow, commanding the German forces, into Portuguese East Africa. He had no rations and no ammunition left, and could not possibly have held out for more than two or three days, but unfortunately the Portuguese at Ngomano surrendered to him and he was thus able to replenish his failing stock of food and ammunition, and to continue the campaign for another twelve months. In May last, when I left the country, General von Lettow was near Quilimane, in Portuguese East Africa, but since, I understand, he has worked his way back and he is at present at the head of a small force somewhere in North-Eastern Rhodesia.

Von Lettow is a very fine fellow. He is one of the few German commanders in this war who have fought clean right through. It is annoying, no doubt, that he still has this little force, only about 100 fighting Germans and some 1000 of his old native soldiers, but I do not think we ought to blame anybody for his being still at large. We must remember that it is a very wide territory, that large portions of the country consist of dense bush; there are enormous ranges of mountains, and many rivers.

The difficulties of rounding up a small mobile force, living on the country, and tied to no lines of communication in such a large country as Central Africa, are enormous. After all it is only a small fugitive force; they cannot claim to hold any portion of the country, but are simply running away, having chips knocked off all the time.

I should like now to say a few words with regard to the future of German East Africa. Most of you know that the whole of the coast line is low and unhealthy, but at the same time there are great possibilities with regard to the production of raw materials and foodstuffs of all kinds, and under supervision the natives would be able to work the necessary machinery. As you come inland you begin to rise gradually on to a plateau. Right through German East Africa, when you get about 300 miles from the sea, you have got uplands which are extremely healthy for Europeans, and which can be properly called the white man's country; not only that, but you can grow in this district rubber, wheat, rice, tea, coffee, sisal, and many other things that are required all over the world. You can grow them, and Europeans who have got to supervise the labour can live there, so in my opinion the possibilities are very great. One of the first essentials in the development of the country in the future is the linking up of the railway from Beira to Chindio and from Blantyre to Port Johnstone. There will be developments in the way of more railways coming in from the East and the West, but I do not think they will be much good unless you get a general connection north and south somewhere. So far as I know there are no very big propositions in regard to minerals in this country, except in the north-east of the Belgian Congo, where I believe there is a good deal of gold to be found. There is plenty of mica, but the chief value of the country lies in its prospects from the agricultural point of view and its raw materials. The question is, who is going to develop it? Is Germany going to have East Africa back again? There are several reasons why she should not. The first, a sentimental reason, is that it was British explorers who discovered those big lakes in the interior. The second reason, also sentimental, is that the enormous sacrifice of blood and treasure which had been made ought not to count for nothing. The third and most important question is whether Germany has proved herself fit to run a country like that. The unanimous opinion must be that Germany cannot; until she has altered her ways, she cannot be allowed to govern a country containing millions of simple natives. Lastly, to my mind, she must not be given a possible chance of using the splendid harbours on the Indian Ocean as bases from which she could threaten the

6 *The King's Royal Rifle Corps Chronicle.*

commerce of the world. There are other alternatives, such as international control, but I think that is an impossible condition. To my mind there is not the slightest doubt that the country must be run by us in the future for the welfare of the inhabitants, and the good of East Africa generally. We can do no more than give an opinion on this question, because exactly what is to be done with German East Africa will I suppose be decided by the Allies in conference.

My Chief Staff Officer all through was Lieut.-Colonel Knox-Gore, D.S.O., my old Adjutant in the 1st Battalion in France and Belgium in 1914-15. To his able advice, quick grasp of a situation, and loyal devotion, I owe more than I can say. He has all the best qualities of a true Rifleman.

EDWARD NORTHEY.

P.S.—The above was written in 1918 ; since then the surrender of Von Lettow in Northern Rhodesia is a matter of history:

E. N.

Government House,

Naorobi,

British East Africa.

24th October, 1919.

NORTH RUSSIA.

A Short Account of No. 1 Special Company The King's Royal Rifle Corps, from April 9th to October 12th, 1919.

The Company was formed at the Rifle Depot on April 5th, and numbered seven officers and 212 other ranks. The Regiment supplied three platoons, and one platoon was found by the Rifle Brigade. Both officers and men had to be warned and equipped at very short notice, but thanks to Major Judge we left with a complete equipment, of which Army Forms were the chief feature.

Major Yeats Brown was in command, while the Second-in-Command, Adjutant, Quartermaster, and General Inquiry Department was filled by Captain C. Smith. He carried out these arduous and generally unpleasant duties from start to finish with a thoroughness and goodwill that we very much appreciated, and it is safe to say that we should have gone to bed cold and hungry on many occasions if it had not been for the "Q" arrangements of Smith and C.-Q.-M.-S. Conaron.

We embarked in April on the "Porto" at Tilbury Docks, and in due course were safely discharged on the pier at Murmansk. The thaw was just beginning to be felt, but there was enough snow and ice to convince us that we were well within the Arctic Circle.

The Company entrained at 4 p.m., and started on a two-and-a-half days' journey to the south. The men were accommodated in fourth class carriages with a big stove at each end, and the officers had a very comfortable first class carriage, which was kept at greenhouse heat by the ministrations of a lady known as Mrs. Trotsky.

In order to realise the difficulties of any sort of War in North Russia, it must be remembered that from the railway junction of Svanka, which is somewhere near Petrograd, to Murmansk, which is very nearly on the Arctic Ocean, there is only one single-line track, 1350 odd versts in length, and mostly of very rough construction. The country is for the most part extremely flat with a few barren ranges of hills. The flat country is a maze of lakes and marshes, and everywhere you can see nothing but trees and trees, and more trees. There is one road, the "post

road," which runs along the line of the railway, and there are occasional summer roads and forest tracks.

The villages are built of axe-hewn logs and are few and far between. On the shores of Lake Onega, the villages are prosperous, and each village has a certain amount of cultivated land, which has been reclaimed from the forest.

Well, for two and a half days, we crashed and clattered along the old See Railway, and woke up one morning to find ourselves at Soroka on the White Sea. For a week we lived in a train and carried out a little training in the snow. Here we made the acquaintance of Brigadier-General Price, who commanded the—*soi-disant*—"Two Three Seven" Brigade.

In due course we moved abruptly to Siding 19, and started to make an aerodrome where no aerodrome had been before—or is ever likely to be again. Here we were able to fire our Lewis guns and get ready for the fighting, which the Brigade promised us in the near future.

It would be as well, perhaps, at this point to state briefly what the Syren force was, and what it was doing. The Syren fighting force was quite distinct from the Archangel Force, and in April, 1919, consisted of:—

One Company R.M.L.I.

The Malmoot Company of Canadian Officers and Sergeants.

250 to 300 Slavo-British, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Moore, D.S.O.

No. 1 Special Company 60th Rifles.

No. 1 Special Company Middlesex Regiment, under Major Drew, D.S.O.

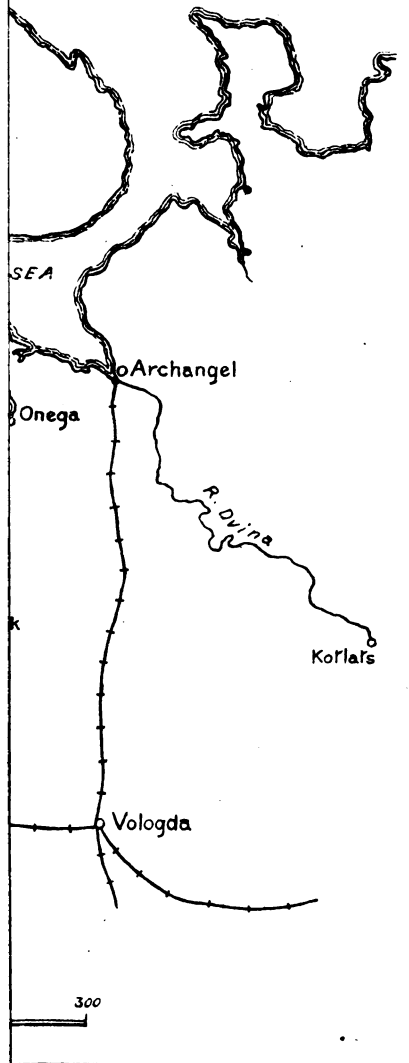
One Battalion Serbians.

Two Companies Italians.

There were also gunners and machine-gunners and a Russian Force, commanded by Captain Daidoff. We were naturally not informed as to the political object of our movements, but the special idea seemed to be to capture the town of Petrozovodsk, without getting damaged unduly in the process.

Early in May the situation was approximately as follows:—Starting from Urozozero the Railway Column, consisting of the Marines, Canadians, and half of Colonel Moore's column, had captured Maselga. Colonel Moore had at once gone off to join up with the rest of his column and win the battle of Korelska Maselga, while the Marines and Canadians hung on to Maselga on short rations and in expectation of a counter-attack. Meanwhile See Chas. Jones and his railway men from Alaska were repairing the railroad at the rate of three or four bridges per day. On the left, Daidoff had defeated the Bolshevik at Yam

of Operations.



Petravsky and was moving on Povyenets, through Tolekino. All three columns were to unite and fight a "Somme Battle" for the town of Medveja Gora, which was reported to be strongly fortified.

On May 6th the Company detrained at Maselga, where were concentrated the Malmoot Company, usually known as The Bomb and Dagger Brigade, the Marines, the Middlesex, and ourselves. The whole was known as the Centre Column, and was commanded by Colonel Leckie, Canadian Infantry.

On May 7th the Company set off down the railroad, which had been considerably damaged. Consequently the three days' rations and the 65 m.m. gun and ammunition, which were carried on trollies, had to be lifted over the gaps and blown up bridges. After advancing about eight versts through the forest, we bivouacked for the night round fires made from a dump of sleepers. It was extremely cold, and I don't think anyone got very much sleep.

At 10 a.m. next morning we occupied Siding 13, after a very short action with the enemy rearguard. As the siding offered a fair defensive position, Colonel Leckie decided to halt here until the railroad could be brought up to us. Accordingly we spent the next four days in feeling for the enemy down the railway. He was always to be found in the same place about three versts down, but after the first day, when we caught one of his patrols with a Lewis gun, he did not appear in any strength.

On May 15th the column was ordered to continue the advance south. With the Middlesex Company in support we set off at about 10 a.m., and very soon discovered the Bolo on his usual ridge (B). Allhusen with No. 1 closed with the enemy on the right, while Jervis with No. 2's Lewis guns endeavoured to enfilade from the left of the line (A). However, the Bolo had got wind of the attack and returned our fire with interest. Major Yeats Brown at once grasped the situation and, crossing the railway under fire, personally led No. 1 platoon in a charge which carried the enemy position. The Bolo did not wait for the steel, but fled, losing several men to our rifle fire.

No. 3 platoon, under Gurney, worked forward on the right until held up by very heavy rifle fire and machine-gun fire from a low rocky ridge (C D). No. 3 had several men hit, Gurney himself being badly wounded in a very gallant attempt to advance. Sergeant Hammond and Sergeant Berridge both did very good work in keeping down the enemy's fire.

Meanwhile Major Yeats Brown led off Nos. 2 and 4 platoons in a turning movement on the left flank, and presently Corporal Fisher's Lewis gun was too much for the enemy maxim, which

was hastily withdrawn. At about 4 p.m. we occupied the enemy second position, and were faced with a long, wooded ridge at about 400 yards distance. On the right De Salis and Allhusen with Nos. 3 and 1 platoons had occupied a bare, rocky knoll (E), and Rifleman Boreham was engaging the enemy maxim with a Lewis gun fired over the top of a large rock. On the left Maclure with The Rifle Brigade platoon and Jervis with No. 2 had gone off with Major Yeats Brown to turn the enemy right. After an uphill fight, in which a Colt machine gun was engaged at point blank range and knocked out by a Lewis gun, the enemy right completely crumpled up and fled.

Meanwhile the heavy covering fire from No. 3 and a short advance by No. 1, in which Allhusen was wounded, had fully occupied the enemy's attention. Consequently Nos. 2 and 4 found themselves on the flank and rear of the Bolo, who fled in disorder under a storm of rifle and Lewis-gun fire.

We entered the few houses of the village at about 8 p.m. and halted for the night, while the Middlesex pushed through and greatly disturbed the enemy's retreat by shooting up his train at close range.

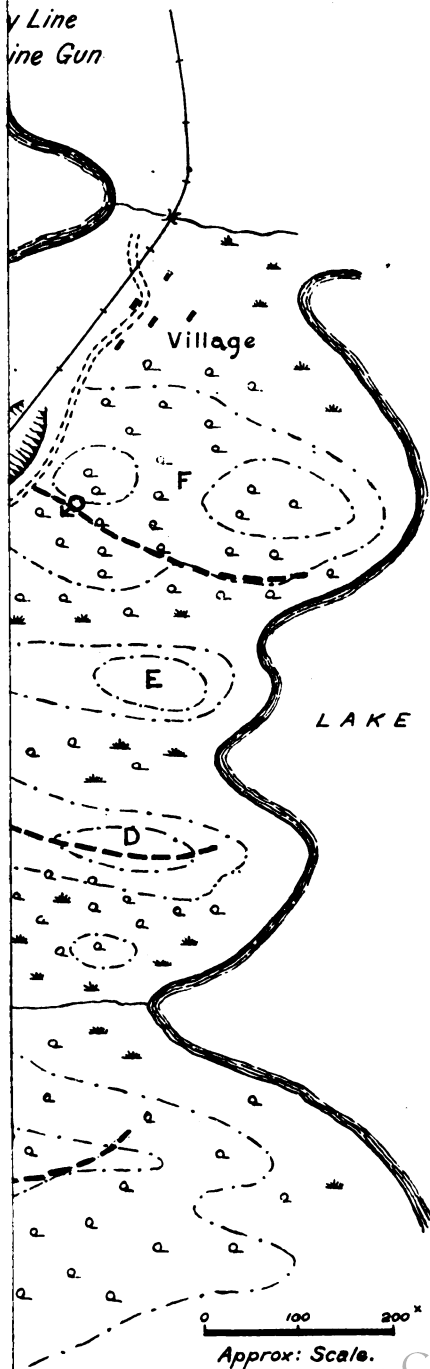
This action, which was fought over very difficult ground in face of very heavy fire from a confident enemy, was a very creditable start for a Company which had never previously done any field training together. Our success was due to Major Yeats Brown's determined leading, as much as to the endurance of the men, and the excellent shooting of the Lewis gunners.

The village was officially renamed "60th Village" in honour of the Regiment, and was always afterwards referred to by the Company as "our" village.

In this fight, which lasted for about eight hours, we lost Lieuts. Allhusen and Gurney, wounded, and eight other ranks. The enemy left over forty dead on the ground, and we captured two machine guns and many prisoners.

We spent the next two days in getting over the effects of the fight, and on the 18th, at 2 a.m., we entrained and moved down in support to the armoured train. The enemy had not destroyed the track until about two versts north of Siding 11.

Here the Marines and ourselves detrained and occupied a low hill, which was afterwards known as "Windyridge." The armoured train then steamed away and left us, feeling very much like the Babes in the Wood. The Wicked Uncle, in the shape of Spirodonov, turned up shortly afterwards, bringing his armoured train with him. However, the Bolo made no really serious effort to molest us, and the day passed fairly quietly. At 2 a.m. next morning, acting on orders received from Brigade,

e (May 15th 1919.)y Line
ine Gun

Approx: Scale.

we turned out and advanced through the woods on the east of the railway, leaving the Marines to hold Windyridge. We were all extremely tired, having had practically no sleep for thirty-six hours, and the men were falling asleep every time the Company halted. About one verst north of Siding 11, a Bolo machine gunner saw us and sent us to ground with a very well aimed burst of fire.

Our orders were to find and occupy a certain road, and, with this end in view, we undertook a compass march through the woods, leaving the offensive machine gun on our right. All went well until we were headed off by a marsh, and in attempting to circumnavigate this we found ourselves suddenly in a semi-circle of enemy posts, who at once opened a rapid and surprisingly accurate fire at about 100 yards range. Sergt. Chapman was wounded in the face, and, as the Company fell back before this storm of fire, De Salis was hit through the thigh. Sergt. Hammond missed him and at once went back to look for him, and carried him away to a place of safety.

No. 2 platoon, under Jervis, re-formed very promptly, and Corporal Pullenger, firing his Lewis gun from the hip, effectually deterred the enemy from advancing. Sergt. Hammond and Sergt. Brace, with the stretcher party and No. 2 platoon as rearguard, were then separated from the rest of the Company, but after an anxious and difficult march through swamps and woods, we succeeded in reaching the railway again. We managed to get De Salis away on an engine, before the enterprising Bolo got round and blew up the railway behind us, and attacked in front with his armoured train. The situation was decidedly difficult, but the enemy made no serious attack, and at night the railway was repaired and the Middlesex took over Windyridge, whilst the Serbs and Italians came up for the attack on Medveja Gora. The Company was taken back to 60th Village, where we slept for two solid days, protected by our cooks and pioneers, who were holding outposts. For gallantry and good work in the actions of May 15th and 19th, Lieut. Jervis and Lieut. Gurney received the Military Cross, Sergt. Hammond the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Corporal Pullenger and Rifleman Boreham the Military Medal.

On May 21st Medveja Gora was captured by a combined attack delivered by the right column under Colonel Moore, and the centre column under Major Drewe. Shortly afterwards the Company moved up into the town as garrison, and for nearly a month we were on and off outpost duty, taking turns with the Middlesex, Serbs, and Italians. There were many rumours of counter-attack, and we were kept at six hours' notice, but nothing occurred.

In the meantime the Lake flotilla of fast motor boats was started on Lake Onega, and the Syren "Duck" Seaplane flight established themselves in Medveja Gora. The Company was accommodated in tents among the pine woods, and Rifles Camp became our "home" base for the subsequent operations. From here 2nd Lieut. Coulson went to the right column as Liaison Officer, and ten men from the Company went with ten of the Middlesex to form a Mounted Infantry Section, who covered themselves with glory, and were always very highly spoken of in the right column.

Lieut. Harrington, M.C., M.M., and Lieut. Fisher, Northumberland Fusiliers, joined the Company and brought us up to strength in officers. Major Yeats Brown had left us to go to hospital, a few days after the capture of Medveja Gora.

By the end of the first week in June the situation was as follows:—In the centre 500 Russian troops were concentrated in front of Siding 10, which was strongly held by the enemy. On the left, Captain Daidoff had established a footing at Schunga on the big peninsula, and was supplied by the Lake flotilla. On the right Colonel Moore's column had defeated the enemy at Kartashi and Tivdya, and was now based on Yostozero.

Unfortunately the Russian troops in the centre were unable to compete with the enemy in front of them, and as it was necessary for the centre to advance, the Middlesex and ourselves were ordered out to capture Siding 10. This action was fought between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. on the night 11–12th. The Middlesex Company and the R.B. platoon made the attack with the remainder of the 60th Rifle Company in reserve. The enemy held a ridge with a field of fire of 1000 yards fortified with stone sangars, and having both flanks turned back on deep marshes. However, the steady advance of the infantry and the wonderful shooting of the two 4.5 howitzers on the armoured train, were too much for the Bolo, who fled after firing away a great deal of ammunition. The 4.5in. H.E. burst with great effect on the stone sangars, and was much too good for the enemy's morale to compete with.

We spent three very cold days on outpost, and were then relieved by the Marine Company. We returned to Medveja Gora for baths and a clean up. On the 21st we were called out at short notice to take over the outposts at Siding 10. Next day No. 2 platoon, under Jervis, patrolled down the line and located the enemy in a strong position about five versts away. No. 2 at once engaged the enemy at close range, and were able to make an estimate of their position and numbers.

The weather was oppressively hot, and it was almost impossible

to sleep at night owing to mosquitoes, and by day the horse flies were almost unbearable.

On the 23rd June the Middlesex Company attacked with our Company in reserve. There was a good deal of rifle and machine-gun fire, but the attack appeared to be going well, until about the middle of the afternoon.

Then a forest fire was started, which prevented the Middlesex from advancing, and at the same time Spirodonov reinforced with his armoured train, which quickly advertised its presence by a storm of machine-gun bullets and high velocity H.E. shells, which ricocheted off the trees in a most alarming fashion.

Both Companies had over 25 per cent. casualties admitted to hospital with heat exhaustion, and accordingly the attack was broken off. We put out battle outposts on the ground we had gained, and an extremely heavy thunderstorm, which wrecked our telephone and soaked us to the skin, did not make anyone any happier.

The troops were too exhausted to continue the attack, and on June 26th the Italians took over from us, and we returned to Medveja Gora for a very badly needed rest. Our time at Rifles Camp was spent in competitions, shooting and bathing. On this occasion, however, we celebrated the Signing of Peace with a holiday. In the morning swimming sports were held in the harbour on Lake Onega, and in the evening Ye Olde Country Fair was held in camp. The Middlesex kindly lent their band, and the Aunt Sallies and the cocoanut shies did a roaring business. Count Tin Eye and Lady 'Aig (doubtless the sleeping partner of Haig and Haig) came with Arizona Bill to give away prizes, and kept us laughing for hours. We finished up with a concert and a rum issue, and went to bed feeling that we had done a good day's work.

Next morning we were called out at short notice to take over from the Italians, who were finding the Bolo too much for them, and on the evening of July 3rd we took over the advanced positions in front of Kapaselga village.

The Russians had now occupied Unitsa, and the right column had come in to Shaidoma to co-operate with the centre.

The village of Kapaselga stands on a hill which overlooks the country on all sides. The village was very strongly entrenched, and was reported to be held by 250-500 Bolo. The enemy had two field guns and a 6in. naval gun in action, and from his O.P. in the church tower he was able to shell our positions at will.

Lieut. Harrington with No. 3 platoon occupied a post on the Unitsa road.

Jervis with No. 2 occupied some Bolo trenches in Kapaselga

Station, and the remainder of the Company were back on the railway in support. As it was extremely important to get in touch with the right column in Shaidoma, Sergt. Tyson, M.M., with two men, went along to them, and was received with open arms by the Slavo-British, who were now commanded by Major Williams, D.S.O.

As the position of the enemy trenches was more or less unknown we were ordered to send out two patrols to get contact and locate his posts. Accordingly, Lieut. Harrington, with Sergt. Hammond and six men from No. 3, went out about 10 p.m. and worked up to within 200 yards of the enemy on the railway.

Hearing sounds of talking, Harrington opened rapid fire, and was at once fired on from his flank and front. The enemy kept up a magnificent fusilade with rifles and machine guns for nearly half an hour, and the patrol stimulated their efforts by further bursts of rapid fire. Finally the party withdrew with very full information as to the enemy's trenches. Under cover of this uproar Sergt. Berridge with six men from No. 1 worked round the enemy right, and came back with further information of trenches and posts.

On the 5th July the guns registered on the trenches and on the O.P. in the church. The enemy were fairly offensive with their 6-inch, until a well-aimed 18-pounder shell blew the observing party out of the church tower. The attack was due to start at 10 p.m., but as the right column had out-marched their ration supply, it became urgently necessary to feed them before they could attack. The only road possible ran in front of our positions and through the station which was frequently shelled, and in reconnoitring this road we found a Bolo patrol on it. However, at 4 p.m. the Company limber took the rations through to Shaidoma without a shot being fired.

At 10 p.m. the barrage opened from the two 4.5 howitzers and the 18-pounder, and at ten minutes past a Company of Russians attacked on the right of the railway, and the right column came in on the Bolo left flank. There was very little firing, and, thanks to the information given by our patrols, the Bolo in the front trenches were quite cowed by the shelling, and surrendered with three machine guns. The enemy set fire to the villages, and when at midnight the Company marched up to the church through the cornfields, about a third of the wooden houses were blazing like a furnace. We bivouacked for the night under the lee of the church wall and the men, although very tired, at once set to on their own to help the inhabitants save their property. Eventually the fire was got under control,

and as the Russian troops were on outposts we got the rest of the night for sleep. Captain Smith went back to railhead and sent us up blankets and rations, which were most welcome.

For the remainder of July we fortified and held outposts in Kapaselga village. The left columns were operating on the Schunga peninsula, their nearest garrison being at Unitsa.

The right column occupied Svvat Navalok and Tivdya.

Rations for this column had to be conveyed by boat across Lijmozero. Between the lake and Kapaselga the carts had to be convoyed, as small parties were occasionally fired on by Bolo partizans.

The weather was extremely hot, and there was little more than an hour or two of darkness every night. The Company took turns about with the Middlesex Regiment on four days of outposts and patrols and four days in reserve, which were usually spent in wiring and digging.

The enemy held a series of lines around Siding 8, and had posts in Vikchosero and Spas. The Company carried out a large number of patrols, and as these patrols always engaged the enemy when they met him, the Bolo had little time to spend in annoying our outposts.

As an example of this patrol work, two accounts are worth recording. No. 4 platoon and an 18-pounder gun, under the command of Captain Smith, went down at 10 p.m. to within about a verst of Siding 8. The gun and two Lewis guns were brought into position on some high ground about 1,000 yards from the enemy outposts.

Lieut. Maclure, Sergt. Reeves, and a small patrol, worked up to within about fifty yards of the enemy post on the railway. Here they fired a Very light for the gun to lay on, and hastily "beat it, while the going was good." The enemy opened rapid fire with rifles and machine guns, and gave the patrol an anxious five minutes. As soon as Maclure had reported his return, the 18-pounder and the Lewis guns opened fire with a vengeance. The gun fired seventy-one rounds in bursts of gun-fire and the Lewis guns fired till they almost glowed.

Expecting a general attack the enemy reinforced his line and kept up a heavy fire down the railway. As soon as it began to get light (at about 1 a.m.) our party withdrew. The Bolo then brought down his S.O.S. barrage, which consisted largely of duds, most of them falling somewhere near his own line.

On another night, Harrington with No. 8 platoon entered the Siding, looking, as usual, for trouble. Finding the Bolo front line unoccupied, Harrington, with Major Mason, R.E., and two Riflemen, went on down the railway for another verst

or so. Whilst examining a small cutting, they heard a challenge above them and looked up into the muzzle of a sentry's rifle. Harrington promptly emptied his revolver into the astonished Bolo's face, and fled. The enemy post stood-to with much shouting and firing. One of the Riflemen remarked "that that must be the Mongolians coming after them," which considerably hastened the withdrawal. When this post was captured in August it was found to be a covered machine-gun emplacement in the main line of defence.

This patrolling gave everyone a great sense of superiority over the enemy. On a later patrol the advanced section of No. 1 platoon were working down the road with two scouts, Riflemen Wheeler and Marsh, some distance ahead. About six of the enemy suddenly appeared out of the bush between the scouts and the section, and called on them to surrender. Wheeler and Marsh turned and fired from the hip without hesitation, and in the confusion the Bolo retired whence they came, evidently considering that the odds were not sufficiently large in their favour.

At the end of July we went back to Medveja Gora for a rest and clean up, while the Middlesex and a Company of the Olonotz Regiment took over the line. There was a good deal of talk of reinforcements coming up, and we all hoped for a relief in the near future.

The Company carried out parades and shooting competitions, and we spent a good deal of time in bathing. The officers managed to secure two Canadian canoes, with which we had a great deal of fun on the Kumsa River at Savod. In fact, we held a Competition with the Sergeants in Shooting-the-Mill Race, which ended in everyone getting a ducking.

On August 6th we were called out, two hours' notice, to reinforce Kapaselga, as the Bolo were said to be attacking. However, the attack was broken up by our guns, and on the 7th we were ordered to do a counter-straafe on the Siding 8 position. The full armoured train provided our artillery, but the registering of the guns took a long time, and at 4 p.m. the heavens opened and it rained in torrents. However, we managed to frighten him out of his position, and after destroying a few small sangars and cutting his telephone wire, we came back to the train. This enterprising piece of machinery had managed to pile itself up during our absence, and, while waiting for another engine to come out, the 75 m.m. gun crew gave a very fine exhibition, by firing sixty shells in four minutes! The Company greatly approved of this—those at least who were not entirely deafened—and applauded vigorously!

We took over outposts for four days, and were relieved by the Middlesex Company. The enemy delivered an attack at 4 a.m. next morning, which broke up under Lewis-gun and artillery fire. A very daring patrol of the Middlesex greatly upset the enemy by appearing in their midst and shooting their Commander! We sent out two platoons in pursuit to Mogilniki, but the Bolo were too fast for us, and passed through six hours ahead.

Next day we received orders to take part in a general advance. Captain Smith, with Nos. 2 and 4 platoons, occupied Mogilniki and Maozero, but handed them over to a Karelian Company next day and returned to Kapaselga. Nos. 3 and 1 platoons pushed outposts into the thick woods down the railway to cover the repair of burnt bridges. This very trying work was carried out extremely well, and reflects great credit on the men who were on duty.

On August 17th the centre column left Kapaselga on the armoured train, which promptly carried away the entire set of signal wires on one of its cars! This upset all telephone communications for the rest of the day. However, after a considerable delay, the column got started and went ahead steadily. On the railway the Middlesex captured the Siding 8 position, under cover of the armoured train howitzers. On the road a Company of Karelians made spasmodic advances, varied by bursts of fire. On these occasions, everyone—firing line, supports, and Company Headquarters—flung themselves on their faces and opened rapid fire to his immediate front. Taken all round their casualties were fairly light. No. 2 platoon, under Smith and Jervis, spent a very hectic day in sorting out these affairs and inducing the Russians to advance.

However, by the end of the afternoon they came under fire from the enemy main position, which was situated on a strong ridge, where the Vakshozero-Siding 7a Road crosses the Petrozovodsk Road.

At this point the entire outfit leaped to its feet and charged for three quarters of a mile down the road, yelling Blue Murder! The Bolo broke and ran for their lives, leaving two machine guns and their Battalion Headquarters intact.

The column held the position for the night and withdrew to Kapaselga next day, after destroying everything of value. No. 4 platoon, who had been acting as gun escort, returned by road, and No. 2 came back on the armoured train, which steamed triumphantly home, literally festooned with troops.

By the end of the week we were relieved by the East Surrey Battalion and a Battalion of R.M.L.I., and returned to Medveja Gora *en route* for Murmansk. Brigadier-General Price made a

farewell speech to the officers, in which he thanked the Company for the splendid work they had done. The Russians had been fairly set on their feet, and with the help of the East Surrey Battalion, the Syren Force had captured Siding 4 by September 27th, when the withdrawal took place.

The Company arrived at Murmansk on August 25th and were split up on employment and guards. Several games of football were played, but we could never quite defeat the team from H.M.S. *Glory*.

On September 23rd the Company took over eleven bridges on the railway between Murmansk and Imandra—a section nearly 100 miles long. These bridge guards were picked up on the “Last Train to the North,” which passed through on the night of October 3rd–4th.

On the 4th we embarked on H.M.T. *Uhua*, and after an interesting voyage, which included a fast steam to pick up an “S.O.S.,” we landed at Glasgow on October 12th. The train service was somewhat faster than that on the See Chas Railway, but appeared to function satisfactorily, and eventually restored us to the Rifle Depot. Captain Palmer was on the Station to welcome us with a Band, and I think we were all very glad to see the Depot Square again, after six crowded months of life in North Russia.

The following immediate awards were made for gallantry in action and devotion to duty:—

LIEUT. W. M. HARRINGTON, M.C., M.M.—Awarded Bar to M.C. for general good work and for his patrol before the action of Kapaselga, when he obtained valuable information by drawing the enemy fire.

LIEUT. D. W. GURNEY.—Military Cross for good work on patrol and gallantry in the action of May 15th.

LIEUT. THE HON. J. JERVIS.—Military Cross for coolness and initiative on the 19th May, when he formed a rearguard for the Company in a very dangerous situation.

SERGT. HAMMOND.—D.C.M. for gallantry on May 19th, when he went back under heavy rifle fire to bring out his Platoon Officer who was seriously wounded.

CORPL. BRIDGES (M.I. Section).—D.C.M. for conspicuous bravery on September 4th, when he helped carry a wounded officer away under very heavy fire.

CORPL. PULLENGER.—M.M. for good work on May 19th, when he covered the withdrawal of the Company with his Lewis gun.

RFN. BOREHAM.—M.M. for conspicuous gallantry on May 15th, when he engaged an enemy maxim with his Lewis gun.

SERGT. BERRIDGE.—M.M. for general good work as Platoon Sergeant and on patrol.

RFN. WHEELER.—M.M. for good work as O.C. Orderly and as Platoon Scout.

RFN. CHAPMAN.—M.M. for attending to wounded under fire on May 15th.

RFN. SNAPE.—M.M. for good work as Platoon Scout.

RFN. GLEED.—M.M. for good work as Platoon Scout.

Rfn. HATCHER.—M.M. for good work as Signaller when alone on duty with right column.

Rfn. GIBBS.—M.M. for good work as Signaller when alone on duty with right column.

The following received the Silver Medal of the Order of St. Anne:—

Rfn. POTTLE.—For good work as Platoon Runner.

Rfn. MILNES.—For good work as No. 1 of Lewis gun team.

CORPL. FISHER.—For good work in command of a Lewis gun Section.

L.-CORPL. ROWLANDS.—For good work in charge of Stretcher Bearers.

12295 Rfn. MARSH.—For good work as O.C.'s Orderly.

Rfn. WITHERS, M.M.—For general good work.

Rfn. SPENSE.—For general good work.

C.-Q.-M.-S. CONARON.—For devotion to duty as C.-Q.-M.-S.

SERGT. PREECE.—For good work as Platoon Sergeant.

The following officers served with the Company in North Russia:—

Major V. Yeats Brown (Sick to England).

Capt. G. Hayhurst-France, D.S.O., M.C.

Capt. C. Smith.

Lieut. D. W. Gurney, M.C. (Wounded to England).

Lieut. D. Allhusen " " "

Lieut. S. C. F. de Salis " " "

Lieut. The Hon. J. Jervis, M.C.

Lieut. J. S. W. Maclure.

Lieut. W. M. Harrington, M.C., M.M.

2nd Lieut. Coulson (Slightly wounded, Liaison Officer, right column).

2nd Lieut. Walsh (Joined from Archangel, September, 1919).

2nd Lieut. Fisher (Northumberland Fusiliers, 236th Brigade).

The following received immediate awards for gallantry and good work:—

D.S.O.—Capt. G. Hayhurst-France, M.C.

BAR TO M.C.—Lieut. W. M. Harrington, M.C., M.M.

M.C.—Lieut. D. W. Gurney, Lieut. The Hon. J. Jervis.

D.C.M.—Sergt. F. Hammond, Rfn. Bridges (promoted Corporal for good work).

M.M.—Sergt. Berridge, Corpl. Pullenger, Rfn. Boreham, Chapman, Gibbs, Gleed, Hatcher, Snape, Wheeler.

RUSSIAN SILVER MEDAL (Order of St. Anne).—C.-Q.-M.-S. Conaron (R.B.), Sergt. Preece, Corpl. Fisher, L.-Corpl. Rowlands, 12295 Rfn. Marsh, Rfn. Milnes, Pottle, Spense (R.B.), WITHERS, M.M. (R.B.).

PLATOON COMMANDERS.

No. 1 Platoon.—Lieuts. Allhusen (wounded), Fisher (sick), Sergts. Berridge, Waller.

No. 2 Platoon.—Lieut. Jervis, M.C., Sergt. Preece.

No. 3 Platoon.—Lieuts. Gurney, M.C. (wounded), Harrington, M.C., M.M., de Salis (wounded), Sergts. Dennis, M.M., Hammond, D.C.M.

No. 4 Platoon (Rifle Brigade).—Lieut. Maclure, Sergt. Reeves.

SPORT IN PALESTINE.

BY F. L. P.

IN August, 1917, General Sir Edmund Allenby, who had recently arrived from England to take over Command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, decided that the time had come to transfer his Headquarters from Cairo, where they had hitherto been situated, to a position in which they would be in immediate touch with the army under his command, which, since the spring, had been entrenched before the Turkish position running from Gaza to Beersheba.

The spot chosen, known as Kelab, was about fifteen miles south of Gaza and close to the village of Khan Yunis, said once to have been the home of Delilah. If, however, any of her descendants are still living, they do not appear to have inherited the looks of their ancestress, being, as far as my observation went, a most unprepossessing crowd.

Having, as usual, brought my gun with me, it was not long before I started off to investigate the sporting possibilities of the district. These, for various reasons, were not of a very high order. It is true that wild goose, several species of duck, and snipe, both full and Jack, were to be found at the mouth of the Wadi Ghuzzi, the watercourse which played such a large part in our operations, but, owing to the fact that everyone who owned a gun had done his best to take toll of them, anything more than an odd shot or two was very difficult to obtain. In September a considerable flight of quail arrive from the sea and stay for a short time in the neighbourhood, but their numbers, as far as my observation went, were nothing to compare with those which arrive at the same time of year in Egypt. There also arrived in September a migratory flight of dotterel, which continued to frequent the country round G.H.Q. for several weeks. These birds were once common in England, but, owing to their great delicacy of flavour and extreme guilelessness—I had almost written stupidity,—they were killed in such numbers that they are now quite extinct in these islands, and I believe their numbers are still diminishing at a rate which holds out very little hope of their ultimate survival. In several places large flocks of sand grouse were to be found, but for various reasons I was unable to get a shot at these birds, much as I should like to have done so.

It was a great pity that it was not found possible to get together some sort of bobbery pack during the months of inaction which intervened between the second and third battles of Gaza. The whole country abounded in jackals, and there were also to be found wolves and the little fenech fox. I was never lucky enough to see a wolf, though from what I was told they are much like the ordinary type, and quite distinct from the Egyptian wolf or "dyb." The fenech fox I met once only, when, having stopped my car one night when returning to camp late, a little beauty came and stood right in the glare of my arc lights. They are very small, white, with a black saddle across the shoulders. These are the "little foxes which spoil the grapes" mentioned in the Bible, and also, presumably, the fox in *Æsop's* fable, who consoled himself with the thought that the grapes he could not reach were sour. It is curious that in both these cases few people I have met seem to have been struck with the strangeness of a fox wanting to eat grapes, a thing which no well-conducted fox in England would ever think of doing, even if grapes were available, and which, as a matter of fact, I believe no species of fox except the fenech ever does.

The country was very open, and we got a certain amount of fun in galloping after the jacks without the assistance of a pack, but I only saw one ridden sufficiently to a standstill in this way to enable it to be picked up by hand.

At the end of October came the third and last Battle of Gaza. The main attack was delivered on the Beersheba position, the extreme left of the enemy's line, and, after a conflict lasting all day, the position was galloped at dusk by a brigade of Australian Light Horse in a most gallant charge, which carried them right over the enemy's trenches fully manned with Turks.

This success really settled the fate of the Turkish Army, and within a week it was in full retreat, a retreat which did not stop until the arrival of fresh forces had enabled it to occupy a position in the hilly country covering Jerusalem. Here a halt had to be called, whilst our forces were reorganized and artillery brought up, after which a most successful attack resulted in the capture of Jerusalem without a shot being fired either at the city itself or at the holy places of Bethlehem and the Mount of Olives.

A determined attempt to retake the city having failed with heavy losses to the enemy, another period of quiescence set in, and this, if we except the two expeditions undertaken against the Hedjaz railway east of the Jordan, was to last until the final victorious operations of the following autumn.

Advanced G.H.Q. had some time previously to this moved

forward nearer to the scene of operations, and at the beginning of January, 1918, the new camp having been prepared near Ramley, the remainder of us moved into it.

This was one of the most charming spots in which it has ever fallen to my lot to go under canvas. In order to minimise the risk of being bombed by hostile aircraft we were divided up into small messes of ten or twelve, and our tents pitched in the groves of apricot, almond, and fig trees, with which the district was covered. As the spring came on the whole countryside burst into a mass of flowers. Never have I seen so many varieties anywhere, and to eyes which had for three years been accustomed to the barren glare of the desert and the extremely dull and uninspiring neighbourhood of Kelab, the sight was one never to be forgotten. Orange and lemon groves were all round us, varied by orchards of almond, apricot, and pomegranate, that much-talked-of tree, the disappointing nature of whose fruit is only atoned for by the beauty of its flowers.

Between us and Jaffa the valley of the Auja was simply carpeted with flowers, of which the most noticeable perhaps were the anemones, which are of very large size and of three varieties, red, white, and blue. Along the sea shore beautiful white lilies grow, while the marshes are a blaze of orchis, asphodel, wild tulip, and black and purple iris. Occasionally also the rare black arum lily is to be found, a curious and sinister-looking flower, even the stamen being black and not yellow as in the ordinary white variety. Further off among the hills flowers of other species abound, the most striking to one who, like myself, is unlearned in the lore of botany being the cyclamen and hollyhocks.

At this time sport was very much handicapped by lack of cartridges; these were absolutely non-existent in the shops, and officers who had private stores to dispose of in some instances asked and obtained as much as five pounds a hundred.

Fortunately I still had nearly a couple of hundred left, so started off to explore the neighbourhood.

On the first arrival of the troops the River Auja had been covered with duck of various species; these, however, by the time I arrived had been so much shot at as to be not worth pursuing. The valley still held a number of quail, but, owing to the scarcity of cartridges, these did not seem worth going after either. I found, however, a very nice marsh only twenty minutes' ride from camp which contained both teal and snipe, and in this I spent several very pleasant afternoons. In this marsh I saw one afternoon a very fine wild cat; I failed to get within shot of him, but as far as I could make out the fur was

long and dark brown in colour, while the tail was "bobbed" in the same way as with the English variety.

My great ambition since my arrival had been to have a day after the chikor, or hill partridge, which were to be found in large numbers in the hilly country about twelve miles from our camp, and this I was enabled to do by the kindness of the 2/3rd Ghurkhas, who offered to put me up for a couple of nights and give me a day's "partridge driving." The chikor, for the benefit of those who, like myself, have not soldiered in India, is very much like the French partridge in size and appearance, only without the red legs, and with rather brighter and more silvery breast feathers. He has all the running powers of his English relative, but when put up among the hills and nullahs of his native haunts comes remarkably straight and high. "No-man's-land" in this part of the line was about 2000 yards across, and our beaters consisted of a fully-armed platoon of Ghurkhas in case we wished to follow the birds into it, as actually happened in the course of the morning. We had a most enjoyable day, killing 14½ brace of birds to four guns. We also saw, but did not bag, a hare, which animals are fairly common in the hills and also down in the plains. A beautiful little gazelle came and stood about 100 yards in front of me, but getting our wind broke away to one side of the beaters; these also are fairly common among the hills, and occasionally come right down into the plains, one being seen just at the back of our camp in the early hours of the morning. I had hoped to get a chance at one of the silver foxes which live in the hills, and whose skins are much sought after, but the only fox that I saw, and badly missed, was very dark in colour and also, as far as I could make out, mangy, which was some consolation.

Towards the conclusion of one of our drives in the afternoon five German aeroplanes appeared overhead, and were given the customary greeting by our Archies, our interest in the proceedings being much enhanced by the fact that four shells which failed to explode in the air did so most satisfactorily on hitting the hard, rocky ground between us and our beaters, where they put up a covey of chikor, several of which were duly accounted for, an exhibition of shooting under difficulties for which I think we deserved some credit.

On the 4th June a most successful old Etonian dinner was held at Jerusalem. Sir Philip Chetwode, himself an old Etonian, putting 20th Corps Headquarters, which was at the German Hospice on the Mount of Olives, at our disposal. Seventy-four "O.E.'s" sat down to dinner and spent a most cheery evening. After dinner someone produced, Heaven knows where from, an

Eton football, and a rouge was forced in the middle of the dining room. After this proceedings became extremely lively, and the evening closed with a real old-fashioned "Rag," such as none of us had seen for many a long day. Among the Riflemen present were Major-General Hare, Major-General Mott, Lieut.-Colonel Deedes, Lieut.-Colonel Borton, and one or two others. Altogether a most successful evening.

Next day I spent in the Jordan valley. This is one of the most interesting and also one of the least explored portions of the country. The heat at this time of year is terrific, anything up to 135° being common, add to this that the dust was such that it was often impossible to see further than the bonnet of the car, and the fact that the altitude, being 1200 feet below sea level, gave one the feeling that all the weight of the skies was resting on one's head, and it will be readily imagined that our troops who were condemned to remain there throughout the summer had a pretty unpleasant time of it. Dysentery and malaria, the latter of a peculiarly malignant type, are rampant in the valley; snakes, including the deadly kreit, viper, puff-adder, and cobra, are plentiful and claimed many victims, while the heat and flies surpassed anything I had imagined hitherto. The Turks frankly ridiculed the idea of our being able to stay there, and dropped a message from an aeroplane saying that they would not bother to attack us but would send a burial party along at the beginning of July. However, stay there we did, and the consequent threat to the Hedjaz railway forced the Turks to keep a considerable number of troops to the east of the Jordan, a dispersal of their forces which was to cost them dear later on.

As some slight set-off against the discomforts of life in the Jordan valley, its sporting possibilities were certainly greater than those of any other part of the country. Two leopards and a bear were claimed by the Australian Light Horse and New Zealanders, though whether the former were leopard or cheetah I was unable to ascertain, both varieties inhabited the valley at a quite recent date, and it is more than probable they do so still. I was unable also to obtain any particulars as regards the bear, which was said to have been killed on one of our expeditions east of the Jordan. Wild pig in fairly large numbers inhabit the marshes which fringe the banks of the Jordan in places, and several of these were killed. Gazelle also were fairly abundant on the lower slopes of the hills. Jackals, foxes, and hyenas of course were plentiful. There is also said to exist a species of wild cat, larger than any other known variety and peculiar to the valley, but I never heard of a specimen being seen in the flesh.

As regards birds, doves and pigeons in enormous numbers and of several different varieties are to be seen everywhere. The chikor frequents the ground near the foothills, and another smaller species of brown partridge is to be met with in the valley itself. Several officers declared they had seen jungle fowl, but as far as I know no specimen was actually identified. The whole of the bird and animal life of the valley was, however, very much of a closed book up to the time of our arrival, and should afford a very interesting field of investigation for the sportsman and naturalist.

An even more interesting locality would probably be the country at the southern extremity of the Dead Sea, where Colonel Lawrence, who was attached to the staff of our Arab ally, the Emir Feisul, discovered an entirely unknown negroid race living in the marshes and having no connection with the Arab population. According to his account they are small in stature, saturated with malaria, and speak a language which has nothing in common with any Arab dialect. Nothing appears to be known by the Arabs as to the history of this race; two solutions would appear possible, either that they are the relic of some forgotten African invasion of which no record remains, left high and dry when the tide ebbed, like the Græco-Roman populations of Siwa and Kufra, or that they were originally a colony of runaway slaves who hid themselves in the marshes, perhaps in the time when King Solomon ruled the land, and his ships brought him "ivory, apes, and peacocks," and also doubtless black slaves from the shores of Africa, and who have remained ever since hidden in their marshes, shunning by age-long tradition the descendants of those who were once their oppressors.

I regret that I am unable to give more than the haziest idea as to the possibilities of the various rivers and streams as regards fishing. Both the Jordan and the River Auja, which flows into the Mediterranean, are muddy, uninviting looking streams, and probably abound in coarse fish, that is, judging by the number of native anglers I saw distributed along the banks of the former.

The other Auja which flows into the Jordan is of quite a different character, being a clear mountain stream, and there a friend of mine rang me up on the telephone the day before I left the country to tell me he had caught a dozen fish in about an hour, which weighed about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. apiece, were of a bright silvery colour, and not unlike trout. I much regret that my departure next day made it impossible for me to test the qualities of this river for myself.

Before closing this article I must just refer briefly to the many horse shows, jumping competitions, and race meetings

which served to break the monotony of those "periods of intense boredom," which some cynic has declared make up the majority of the time spent on active service. Our Army was stronger in mounted troops than any other expeditionary force, and at one time race meetings were of practically weekly occurrence, and were a source of great enjoyment to large numbers of officers and men temporarily out of the line.

It will be noticed that no mention is made of the country north of Jerusalem. This is owing to the fact that I left the country for good in July, 1918, and therefore was not present during the final operations which resulted in the complete occupation of the country. Perhaps one of the officers who was lucky enough to be "in at the death" will supply the deficiency in the next issue of the *Chronicle*.

EMBARKATION.

1916—1919.

I JOINED the Embarkation Staff at Southampton at the end of 1915 as Assistant Embarkation Staff Officer, known for short as A.E.S.O. In the hierarchy of Embarkation the position of an A.E.S.O. is analogous to that of a subaltern in a battalion; that is, he does most of the work, or, at all events, thinks he does.

The Staff consisted almost entirely of "dug-outs," like myself, and a better lot of men to work with would be difficult to find. There was never a serving soldier on it, unless invalided, until after the Armistice and then they were generally prisoners of war, invalids, and so forth. Embarkation, in my opinion, is not a young man's job. It is much easier to give orders to Colonels and Majors and people like that, although you may be only a Captain, if you are nearly old enough to be their father. However, whatever your age, you must be sound in wind, limb, and eyesight.

The method of working the Port was to allot certain berths (where ships tied up) to certain sections, commonly known as Berths. Thus, the Berth, where I was at first, dealt with all ships arriving at or leaving from Berths 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50, and, as the office was at 47, it was known as Berth 47. Each Berth section had its own A.E.S.O.'s, who arranged amongst themselves the distribution of the work. Their Staff consisted of a telephone operator (at first a civilian, then a shell-shocked soldier, and finally a boy) and a boy scout or two to run messages. There was a Naval Transport Section allotted to each Berth, one or two officers, and some C.P.O.'s and P.O.'s. There were five of these Berth sections when I first joined, but when we began to send ammunition over they were reduced to four and later to three.

Of course I missed all the embarkation of the Expeditionary Force and a good deal of the New Army, but divisions were still coming through and continued doing so throughout 1916; each took about four and a half days. It was the most interesting part of our work, dealing with units. You could see almost before they got out of the train if they were good, bad, or moderate, and if they were commanded by the O.C., the Adjutant, or the Sergeant-Major. The thing used to go like well-oiled machinery. A train would come in with personnel, horses, and vehicles, drop

the last in the first shed and run on into the other. The A.E.S.O. boarded the train at its first stop, found the O.C., had a party sent back into the other shed to off-load the wheels, and turned the remainder on to the horses; got them out of the train and tied up on a rope. When they were inspected by the Veterinary Officer, those he did not throw out were watered and put on board at once and your shed was clear for the next train. All horses thrown out were replaced in the afternoon from Swaythling. We also replaced things broken or lost in the train, poles, or a cap blown off, and so on.

Besides units, there was also a constant stream of drafts as reinforcements—British, Canadian, and Australian; also horses, motors, and stores. It was while I was on 47 Berth that we put 36 motor lorries into a ship in one afternoon; started at 2 p.m., dumped the last lorry on deck at 5.25, and sailed her at 5.30.

The King paid a visit to the Port this year. After having been nearly knocked down by a heavy draught horse, which fell on the deck of a ship, he was taken to see a 12-inch howitzer on railway mounting loaded into a ship by the 50-ton crane; a very pretty piece of work. The mounting is too long to go square down the hatch, so has to be tilted and then moved about in the hold, inch by inch, all by the crane, which is a beautiful one. He asked a question of the stevedore foreman who was directing this job, and was called "Your Worship" in his answer. This quite cheered up His Majesty, who, I believe, had been a little bit bored, and he observed he supposed it was "force of habit."

About this time I had to embark some Conscientious Objectors, the only ones, I think, that came through the Port. There were three companies of them, about 100 strong each. The first two companies went on board all right. The third, which came down late, about half an hour before the ship sailed, had a dozen men in handcuffs, who, their officer told me, refused to embark. I asked the O.C. troops on board for a party to deal with them, and twenty-four A.S.C. men came ashore spoiling for a fight. There was no fight however, we took their handcuffs off and they yielded more or less gracefully to *force majeure*. The Chief Petty Officer on the Berth asked me what N.C.C. on their shoulder straps stood for. On being told, he used the most horrible language and told me how *he* would have got them on board. His way would have been quite as effective as mine, but more painful.

About the middle of 1916 an entire Berth was given up to ammunition, the number of embarking Berths was reduced to

four and were re-constituted, and I was shifted to Berth 44, where I remained till the end of my time. Berth 44, besides doing the ordinary work, did the furlough, about 1000 daily each way. This was almost a profession in itself; an A.E.S.O.'s life is spent in answering questions, and there were a special lot of conundrums about furlough of which he had to know the answers.

Furlough went on all through '16 and till the summer of '17, and was resumed in the autumn until it was stopped at the German Offensive in March, '18, and was never resumed through Southampton afterwards to any extent. Besides the French furlough there was also furlough from Salonika, and, after the Italian Expeditionary Force was constituted, from Italy.

Salonika furlough arrived in what were called Organized Parties; there was wondrously little organization about some of them; however, they all had nominal rolls and when they went back they had to have four. As all the men did not turn up, the names of the absentees had to be ruled out of the rolls at the last minute, just before the ship sailed, which meant a lot of work. With French and Italian furlough all that was necessary was their Embarkation Cards, given them at Waterloo with their names and regiments on them, and a roll of those who had not any, in case the ship went down. We did not have this until a furlough ship was lost in the Mediterranean, and the authorities found there were no means of notifying the next-of-kin.

Every now and then, at one time it happened frequently, ships sailing would be cancelled, either from want of escort, submarines off the port or on the other side, or mines breaking loose. Havre, on one occasion at least, was closed for five days owing to a gale, the weather after it being too bad to admit of mine-sweeping. So we had five days' outgoing furlough in the docks at the same time. Each man had to have his pass stamped every morning or he would have been a day over his leave. We had a battery on our berth once for four days, horses and all. The Major had never seen his battery till he took it over in the train. He knew quite a lot about it by the time it sailed; a good battery it was, too. On one of these occasions, as the men were being disembarked, one of them said to the Naval Transport Officer, whom he took for a ship's officer: "What the — are we coming ashore for? I hope to God this — war ain't over." He did not want all his trouble for nothing. Our 20th Battalion was kept in the docks for two days, and when they did sail in two transports, had to put back from stress of weather; one of these ships would have filled if she had not turned back.

About the middle of '16 we began to send over large numbers of individual officers as reinforcements, sometimes as many as 200 a day. This continued until the Armistice. If their ship was held up it entailed a lot of bother; they all had to be taken off and billeted at various hotels and checked over again when they did sail.

At Christmas time in '16 I had a good deal of work. One of our Berth officers was on leave and the others had influenza, so all the work fell on me, assisted by an Eton Master and an Eton boy, son of one of the Naval Officers. They were quite useful and did what they were told, but of course they knew nothing, and everything had to be referred to me. An Eton Master or two came down and helped us each Christmas. I was there until after the Armistice.

Early in 1917 the powers that rule over Embarkation at the War Office were changed, and they quickly made their influence felt. Their idea was apparently that we were not making as much use of the ships as we might; several were taken away, and they tried to do the same amount of work with the remainder. One way was to send the ships back in the daytime, directly they were unloaded in France, and sail them again that night. This did not give them enough time to coal and also ran the ships' officers off their legs for want of sleep, and after having lost the *Connaught* and *Donegal*, both torpedoed near Ryde in broad daylight, they gave this plan up. As regards the latter ship, all the newspapers treated her loss as if it was an outrage, like the sinking of the *Lanfranc* and other hospital ships. I hold no brief for the *Bosche*, nor want to, but the *Donegal* was as fair game as a man-of-war. She was carrying "walking wounded" it is true, but she had no distinguishing signs of a hospital-ship and was not flying a red cross flag, nor could she, as she was a returning transport.

Another plan was to load ships to their utmost capacity without reference to units; horses in one ship, vehicles in another. This was all very well if both ships sailed, but I remember a ship that sailed with the wheels of a battery and the horses of a D.A.C., whereas the ship that carried the horses of the battery and most of the wheels of the D.A.C. did not sail, for lack of escort, till the following evening. There must have been a slight congestion at Havre as the result. However, they gradually discovered that ships were not the same things as railway trains, and that a quart will not go into a pint pot, and we resumed normal.

Towards the late summer of this year the Americans began to come over, medical units and railway people at first, and then soldiers, "till thick and fast they came at last, and more, and

more, and more." When they began coming pretty thick, there was an American Embarkation Staff to help to deal with them, mostly young officers who had to learn their job, under their own Embarkation Officer (who was a ripper), but also under us. There was almost every element under this arrangement that could make for friction, but as there was plenty of goodwill on both sides there was none from first to last, and the good work was carried on quite smoothly. The ordinary procedure was to send the contents of a convoy from some northern port into camps at Winchester, Romsey, and Southampton, and we were generally able to ship them in time to deal with the next convoy, personnel only; horses, guns and wheels went direct.

The Americans were quite easy to deal with, and uncommonly in earnest. We had to learn their language, as their technical terms are different from ours; the same words very often, but different meanings; what we call a lorry they call a truck, what we call a truck they call a baggage car, "in file" is "column of twos," "in line" is "company front," a nominal roll is "a roster," and so forth. An officer brought me a man one evening and said he guessed he had lost his outfit. I remembered just in time to save giving myself away, that "outfit" meant his unit or what they call his "organization," and not as I first thought his kit.

They used to have numbers of individual officers (Casual Officers they called them), but they dealt with them in a different way from ours; fell them all in, each one with his "grip," and marched them on board. I was explaining to the O.C. troops of one of the ships, an American Colonel, that there were not enough cabins for all the officers, and the juniors would have to do as best they could. He replied in a loud voice, "Oh, I quite understand, it won't hurt these fellows to lie on the floor," to the great delight of about sixty Medical Casual Officers, who were fallen in two deep just in front of him.

I told one American officer of a draft for a mixed ship, *i.e.*, British and American, that when they first came over we always sent them on board first, but now we treated them like our own people and sent them on in order of arrival; and so he was to follow a British draft. He replied simply: "That's fine," and that was the spirit which animated most of them.

The discipline of the men was remarkable, numbers of them in 1918 were quite raw; there were some whose only training had been on board ship, who did not know their "turnings," nevertheless, they remained on the berth, often all day, never strayed away and never gave any trouble. Some of these "Casual

Companies," 100 or so strong, came from America under one 2nd Lieut. and no N.C.O. It was always difficult to get a party from them to handle any baggage except their own, but they frequently, when asked, loaded mail bags and worked with a will.

During 1918 we did hardly any trooping to France besides Americans, except just after the German offensive in March, when we sent over thousands of British in a very few days, mostly boys though, but quite good boys, and most enthusiastic and pleased to go. It is very characteristic of the British soldier, that the worse things looked over in France, the more cheerful he was at embarking and the more he sang.

The quality of the men kept up wonderfully well all through, up to '18, in that year as I have said I had no opportunity of judging; they went another way.

The quality of the light draught horses and of the mules was also well maintained, they seemed just as good the last year as the first. There was a great falling off in the riding horses, and in the last year heavy draught horses seemed difficult to get.

Our work on the wharf was often very hard and the hours at times very long, generally twelve hours, sometimes twenty-four; but it was interesting and never dull. There was an extraordinary amount of variety in it. I have embarked and disembarked, besides British and Colonial troops and Americans, French, Belgians, Italians, Portuguese, Alsations, Russians, Poles, Czechs, Serbians, Roumanians, Germans, and Austrians, Cape boys, Bermudians, Barbadians and Kaffirs. I have never embarked Chinese, but I have loaded a ship with Chinese food and stores, and very strong No. 2 hold, where the dried fish was, smelt. Every sort of stores, every kind of gun from 15-inch howitzers downwards came through our hands. During the time I was at Southampton, there passed through our hands about six and a half million men, half a million horses, 10,000 guns, and three million tons of stores.

Curiously enough we never had an air raid. A Zeppelin came over Portsmouth in the winter of '16, we saw it from the docks in the searchlights, but that was the nearest. It is curious that the Germans, instead of trying to frighten Londoners, never sent any aeroplanes over us, where they could hardly have failed to have done most fearful damage. I believe that in one twenty-four hours a million pounds worth of ammunition was shipped in the docks.

After the Armistice we had a stand easy for a while, till demobilization began, and then when it was in full blast we worked as we had never worked before. January and the first fortnight of February '19 were like a nightmare. Mobs of men, with no

discipline, coming over every morning, who had to be sorted out, fed, and sent away. We were short-handed, as, though the Staff was increased, the new hands were not of very much use till they had learned their work, and by that time the pressure had relaxed to a great extent. Ships full of men used also to turn up in the afternoon or evening without any warning, and had to be dealt with.

Our difficulty was that the men arrived in several ships all over the docks, each ship containing men for all the various dispersal camps, trains for which could only be sent from certain berths; so there was an enormous amount of marching men about from the berths where they landed to the berths where they entrained. There was a great shortage of rolling stock and of engines. Part of the time there was a strike of engine-drivers and firemen, which made engines more difficult to get than ever, but we got the men away somehow, though it entailed overcrowding and very long trains. The railway inspectors and porters backed us up all through in a perfectly wonderful way, working with a willingness and cheerfulness that was beyond all praise.

One of the things one can look back upon with pleasure, was the cordial way in which all the civilians, shed-foremen, stevedore-foremen, railway people, and even quay-side labourers worked with us and for us. They all seemed to be imbued with the great idea of carrying on the good work of ending the war and beating the Bosche.

P.S.—One of the Staff who was a bit of a herald made us a coat of arms, what is called “Canting heraldry” most of it. The motto was *Non hero sed haereo*, which being freely interpreted is “I am not a hero but I am always there.”

H. NEWTON, Captain.

REGIMENTAL RECORDS.

1st BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

On 1st January, 1919, the Battalion was in Germany with the Army of Occupation; it was billeted at the village of Rommerskirchen, a small station some sixteen miles north-west of Cologne. The billets there were scattered and inconvenient, and there was a considerable amount of correspondence in connection with demobilization to be dealt with. Some training was carried on, but parade grounds were few and inadequate. On 4th January B Company moved to fresh billets at Sinstehen, another village about a mile off: this gave the others more room.

It was found that the country was full of hares, and, permission having been obtained, some shoots were held, which resulted in some hares and partridges being secured for diet.

On 6th January a draft of fifty-five joined us, almost all of them men who had served in the Battalion before: there were six buglers. On the same day (6th January) the Battalion moved to Stommeln, where billets were taken over from the Oxford and Bucks; this village was now included in our Brigade area: it was a big village and was an improvement on Rommerskirchen.

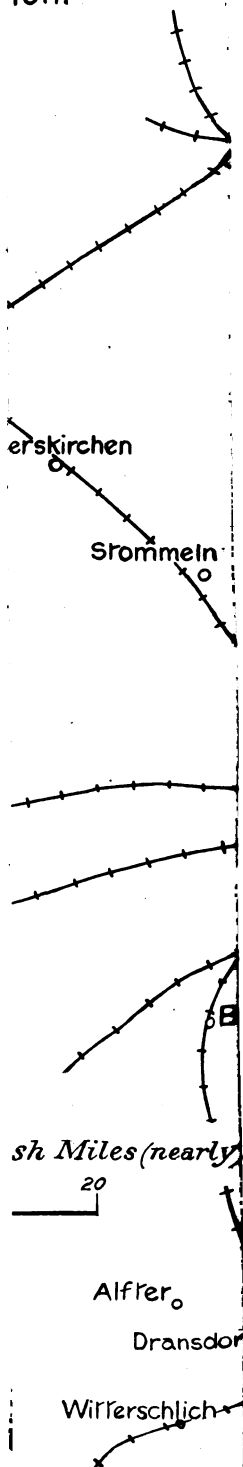
A lengthy programme of indoor and outdoor recreations was arranged, including football matches with various units, boxing, cross-country running, theatricals, and debates. On 12th January the Archbishop of Canterbury preached at Cologne.

2nd Lieut. Binnie became Battalion Education Officer, and at once started classes in French, German, Spanish, Italian, and book-keeping.

On 14th January a number of old regular soldiers left the Battalion for demobilization, this made much change in the staff of Battalion and Company Headquarters and the Band, etc. Sergt. Spedding relieved Sergt. Fenn as Post Sergeant, and Corpl. Coppard relieved Sergt. Robinson as Sergt. Master-Cook, and the war-worn Company Cooks were relieved by New Army Riflemen.

On 17th, 18th, and 20th an Inter-Platoon Drill Competition was held, the final of which on the 20th was won by No. 8 Platoon of B Company (2nd Lieut. T. C. Welsh).

d in the
ion.



On the 20th a Summary Court-Martial was held, with Major E. M. Allfrey, M.C., as President, to deal with Germans in the Brigade area, who had broken various rules. Fines were imposed upon them. On same day Acting Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Howard rejoined from leave.

About this time the following honours and rewards were published :—

BAR TO DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Howard, D.S.O.

BAR TO MILITARY CROSS.

Captain L. P. Walsh, M.C.

MILITARY CROSS.

Captain P. F. C. Jourdain.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

505280 Sergt. Colley.

C/7862 Sergt. Frith.

6/1202 Corpl. Jack.

And the following were New Year's honours :—

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

5708 Sergt. Wardle, M.M.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL.

9269 R.-Q.-M.-S. Hind.

6629 Sergt. Kendall, M.M.

8869 Rfn. Cocker.

On Saturday, 25th, some of the 19th Hussars came over by lorry to play a football match with us: space, however, prevents our mentioning all the football matches and theatrical shows which took place.

On January 27th, after intense cold, came a fairly heavy fall of snow. The frost continued into February, and some skating was carried out on a pond in the Stommeler Busch, about two miles from Stommeln.

On February 1st the Battalion route marched to Fliesteden, a village some few miles off unoccupied by troops. Several civilians were arrested for various breaches of regulations. In the evening a play called "Love in a Whirlpool," which had been written by Captain H. B. Phillips, was acted by the officers; Captain W. E. Thomas was stage manager, and every officer in the Battalion had a part.

On Sunday, 2nd February, an interesting lecture on Canada was given by Captain Hall, M.C., of the Canadian M.G. Corps.

On 4th February the 99th Brigade Signalling Competition was held, and was easily won by the Battalion signallers, under Sergt. Hobbs, M.M.

On 6th the Battalion Band arrived from England, under Bandmaster Brown; it consisted of about twenty-five bandmen—mostly boys of fifteen or sixteen years—and ten buglers.

By this time about 100 men had gone home for demobilization.

Entertainments of various sorts were arranged most evenings; on 12th February a play called "Jimmy's Dream" was performed by D Company.

About this time a letter was received, defining the future plans about the four Regular Battalions of the Regiment, namely, the 3rd and 4th Battalions would go to England as soon as possible to prepare for a tour of Foreign Service: the 1st and 2nd Battalions would be for Home Service.

Orders were also received that the 2nd Division would relieve the New Zealand Division on the east side of the Rhine during the month: the 99th Brigade was due to move to the Bensberg area about 28th February.

On the 16th February a thaw set in, with rain and mild weather. On this day the C.O. and one or two others motored over to visit the 2nd Battalion at Alfter.

During the last week in February we were informed that the Battalion would leave the 99th Brigade shortly, being relieved by the 13th Battalion K.R.R.C. On relief the Battalion would be reduced to cadre strength and then leave for England.

On 28th February the Brigadier gave a farewell address to the Battalion on its leaving the Brigade, some extracts of which are given herewith. We then marched past, and on the following day (1st March) the G.O.C. Division also gave a farewell address, and he and his staff were photographed with the officers of the Battalion. Thus we ceased to belong to the 2nd Division, and, although the departure of the cadre from Germany was delayed for some time, and in fact did not actually take place until the 17th of May, there is not very much more to relate about our time in Germany. We expected to get orders any day to start, and drafts of officers and other ranks left us, some for demobilization, and others, composed of men available to serve in the Army of Occupation, to join other units. Space prevents our mentioning all the details of these drafts, or all the recreations and minor events that occurred.

On the 19th of March the old 2nd Division was re-named the *Light Division*, and all the old Regular Battalions were being reduced to cadre and leaving it, their places being taken by New Army and Territorial Battalions. This, therefore, is an appropriate place to record the farewell order published by the Brigadier:—

99th Infantry Brigade G/Gen./11.

To 1st Battalion 60th Rifles.

"1. Owing to the reorganisation of the Army of Occupation, and the formation of the post-bellum Army, the 1st/60th Rifles is leaving the 99th Infantry Brigade, in which it has performed such gallant services throughout the war.

"I wish to place on record my high appreciation and admiration of the magnificent services of the Battalion while in the 99th Infantry Brigade.

"2. The Battalion came out to France in the 2nd Division in the original Expeditionary Force in August, 1914, and joined the 99th Infantry Brigade in December, 1915.

"Since these dates it has taken a leading part in the many and strenuous battles in which the 2nd Division and 99th Infantry Brigade have been engaged.

"In these eventful four years we have seen together good days and bad, but whether fortune was fair or foul, the 1st/60th Rifles have ever shown the same *esprit de corps*, determination and indomitable spirit, which eventually overcame all resistance and won the war.

"The Battles of Mons, Aisne, Ypres, Festubert, Loos, Delville Wood, Arras, Bourlon Wood, Mory Copse, Canal Du Nord, Noyelles, and Forenville stand out in history as a record of the achievements of the 1st/60th Rifles, a record worthy of the great traditions of their Regiment, and a record of which the Battalion may well be proud.

"3. The Battalion is now being reduced to cadre strength with a view to reconstruction and to taking its place in the post-bellum Army. Those now serving in it will shortly be dispersed to different avocations, some to civil life, some to the Army of Occupation, and some to the post-bellum Army. To all I wish the best of luck. I know that every one of you can be relied on, no matter to what sphere in life fortune may call you, to maintain the great traditions which you have helped to build, and to live up to the high reputation of your Battalion for smartness, *esprit de corps* and discipline, efficiency, staunchness and grit.

"In bidding the 1st/60th Rifles farewell I wish to thank officers, N.C.O.'s, and men (including those who have fallen in the fight) for their loyalty, efficiency, and gallant services when in the 99th Infantry Brigade.

"It is they who have borne the brunt of the hardships and of the fighting, and it is they who have won the war.

"I cannot express how sorry I am to lose the Battalion,

or how proud I am of the honour I have had of having it under my command.

“Good-bye and good luck.”

(Signed) A. E. McNAMARA,
Brig.-General,

5th March, 1919. Commanding 99th Infantry Brigade.

The war diary about this time also records some correspondence which passed during March between the Lieutenant Governor of Jersey and the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion K.R.R.C. about a letter sent by Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Howard, placing on record the good services of twenty-five Jersey men who had served in the Battalion.

Meanwhile on 23rd March it was announced that the 51st Young Soldiers Battalion Rifle Brigade were to take over our billets at Stommeln, and accordingly the next day (24th) we moved to the village of Busdorf, three and a half miles off. The weather became rainy and snowy.

On March 31st the Rev. A. G. Duthie, M.C., who had been C. of E. Chaplain in the Brigade since 1915, left us for demobilization. He had often lived at Battalion Headquarters, and had seen so much of the Battalion and been in the trenches with it, that he was quite an old friend, and all were sensible of his unfailing kindness and good influence.

The officers detailed to go home with the Cadre were as follows:—

Acting Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Howard, D.S.O.
Captain T. N. F. Wilson, M.C. (Adjutant).
Captain and Quartermaster H. Moulsher (Quartermaster).
Lieutenant D. G. Buxton.
Captain R. O. Meyrick.
2nd Lieutenant P. N. Banks.

Awaiting Demobilization.

Lieutenant G. A. Burnett.
Captain W. E. Thomas.

The 1st April found the Battalion, with strength 9 officers and 154 other ranks, at Busdorf. The Battalion was organized temporarily into a “cadre” Company and a “details” Company. All the transport animals except eight riding horses had been sent to other units, so that the Battalion no longer existed as a mobilized fighting unit.

The 2nd Division having been re-named the *Light Division*, its Infantry Brigades were also re-named as follows:—The 5th Brigade became the 1st Light Brigade, Brig.-General G. V. Horndern, C.B., C.M.G., K.R.R.C.; the 99th Brigade became the

2nd Light Brigade, Brig.-General R. A. Currie, D.S.O.; the 6th Brigade became the 3rd Light Brigade, Brig.-General H. B. P. L. Kennedy, C.M.G., D.S.O., K.R.R.C., and a good deal of reorganization of Battalions took place. The 51st Young Soldiers Battalion K.R.R.C. was absorbed in the 13th Battalion K.R.R.C., the 52nd in the 18th, and the 53rd in the 20th. We of the 1st Battalion remained, for purposes of administration, in the 2nd Light Brigade.

On the 8th April most of the 1st Battalion went for a trip on the Rhine in a river steamer: they started from Cologne and went up the stream past Bonn into the American zone of occupation as far as Remagen, some twelve miles south of Bonn, and back.

Arrangements were made to move from Busdorf to Fliesteden, as the latter village contained better billets, and was nearer the railway station. This move was carried out on the 18th April.

Nothing much occurred during the first fortnight of May, and two men per week were being granted leave to England; orders, however, were then received that the cadre would leave Duren for Antwerp on the 17th, our destination in England being Fovant on Salisbury Plain.

On 16th May the Battalion cadre went by train from Rommerskirchen station to Duren and passed the night at the Corps rest house. On the 17th they entrained again at Duren for Antwerp, sharing the train with the cadres of the 2nd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment and the 1st Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment. The cadre arrived at Antwerp next day, but had to wait there a week for a ship. Finally, on the 26th May, we embarked on the *Sicilian*, and going *via* Flushing and Sheerness we arrived at Tilbury on 28th, and reached Fovant on 31st May. There we merely handed in stores and mobilization equipment, and on the 3rd June the cadre, strength 6 officers and 40 other ranks, left Fovant for Winchester, there to be dispersed.

The cadre arrived at Winchester at 4.45 p.m. on the 3rd, and found the Mayor of the City and the Officers of the Rifle Depot waiting at the station to receive them. The band was there, and they marched to the Rifle Depot, receiving a warm welcome from the inhabitants as they passed.

The whole then went on dispersal leave, and the Battalion practically ceased to exist as such until July, when a new 1st Battalion was re-formed.

During July the Battalion commenced to re-form at Rugeley Camp, Staffordshire. The policy adopted by the War Office was that the 1st and 2nd Battalions should each take over half

the personnel of the 5th Battalion. The 5th Battalion consisted almost entirely of officers and other ranks who were either demobilizable or who would be demobilized eventually. The decision could not be reversed, and the date of taking over was fixed for July 26th.

It had been very strongly hoped that the Battalion would be able to re-form on the cadre that was formed in Germany. The composition of the cadre had been made up with this end in view, and the idea had never been entertained for a moment that the Battalion would have to re-form with temporary officers and other ranks on duration-of-war engagements. Amongst the personnel taken over from the 5th Battalion were about 150 recruits of varying service, the average being about two months, and the average age about eighteen. As it was expected that more recruits would be arriving from the Depot shortly with very little service (which actually happened during the following months) repeated applications were made for the return of the cadre, particularly as practically no instructors were taken over from the 5th Battalion, and it was found impossible to obtain any from other Battalions. These applications were refused owing to a War Office letter stating that all other ranks with more than two years to complete their Colour Service must be posted to Battalions proceeding on Foreign Service.

By July 26th no Commanding Officer had been appointed: this was not done till Lieut.-Colonel L. F. Philips, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., joined on August 8th.

The Adjutant was Captain T. N. F. Wilson, D.S.O., M.C., and the Quartermaster Captain H. Moulsher. A few other regular and temporary officers were transferred from the 5th Battalion and 1274 other ranks.

On the 29th Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Howard, D.S.O., joined and assumed temporary command of the Battalion.

On August 8th Lieut.-Colonel L. F. Philips, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., joined and assumed command of the Battalion.

On the 14th a very successful Swimming Regatta was held at Potters Pond. The Band played at intervals during the afternoon.

During this month a certain number of cricket matches were played, the chief of which were against the Bedfordshire Regiment and the town of Stone. Both these matches were won: Captain Ferrand on each occasion made over 50.

The difficulties to be overcome in organizing any form of game at Rugeley were very great. The grounds were chiefly gravel and large stones, and the cricket pitches rather worn concrete. Even the teams themselves were difficult to keep

going, owing to the continual demobilization and the drafting of young recruits from the Depot.

Plenty of football was played and a few Regimental matches, but owing to the reasons above it was found impossible to run any kind of Platoon or Company League.

A Divisional League was started, but owing to moves of Battalions later in the season was never finished.

Boxing and cross-country running were soon in full swing.

A rough shoot of some 600 acres was taken by the officers, which afforded plenty of amusement and exercise.

During August and September a great number of men were demobilized, but the Battalion was still approximately 900 strong, owing to the drafts of recruits that arrived from the Depot.

The Battalion did not take part in the strike duties, as they were in Brigade Reserve, but repeated practices were held in the event of a sudden move.

On October 18th the Quartermaster and twenty other ranks proceeded to Malplaquet Barracks, Aldershot, as advanced party, to take over from the 4th Battalion. When it was definitely known that the 1st Battalion would be shortly proceeding to Aldershot and the 2nd Battalion to Portsmouth, it was decided to hold an Inter-Battalion Competition in the following events:—Musketry, Battalion Football, Officers' Football, Sergeants' Football, Corporals' Football, and Recruits' Football Matches; Cross-Country Run; Sergeants' Billiard Competition; Boxing; Rugby Football Match; Tug-of-War; Hockey Match; Officers' Basket Ball. These events were won as follows:—

Musketry	—	—	—	—	—	1st Battalion.
Battalion Football Match	—	—	—	—	—	"
Officers	"	"	—	—	—	"
Sergeants	"	"	—	—	—	"
Corporals	"	"	—	—	—	2nd Battalion.
Recruits	"	"	—	—	—	"
Cross Country Run	—	—	—	—	—	"
Sergeants Billiard Competition	—	—	—	—	—	"
Rugby Football Match	—	—	—	—	—	"
Hockey Match	—	—	—	—	—	1st Battalion.
Boxing	—	—	—	—	—	2nd Battalion.
Tug of War	—	—	—	—	—	"

The Officers Basket Ball was not played.

Result.—2nd Battalion, 7 events. 1st Battalion, 5 events.

On October 30th Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Sir G. A. Armytage, Bart., C.M.G., D.S.O., joined and assumed duties of Second in Command.

By the end of the month practically all demobilizable personnel had been demobilized, and the Battalion moved to Aldershot

in the beginning of November with only Regular personnel about 650 strong. The great majority of these were recruits.

November 6th the Battalion moved to Malplaquet Barracks, Aldershot.

During November and December a great number of Brigade Football and Hockey League Matches were played, but it was still found impossible to run satisfactory Platoon or Company Competitions.

As soon as the Battalion settled down in Aldershot, the following system of training was adopted:—One Company at a time was made up to strength in all ranks and struck off all duties for a month for Individual Training. Their Regimental Employ was relieved, so that all ranks on the strength of the Company were available for training. By the end of the year one Company, D Company, had completed their training, and fired a General Musketry Course. Considering the scarcity of instructors, the age of the recruits, and the bad weather, the results obtained were very satisfactory; the average of the Company being only '02 points below the classification of a 1st Class Shot.

On December 6th the Battalion lined the streets at the funeral of Sir Evelyn Wood. Although this was the first attempt of most of the Battalion at this kind of function, it was carried out very satisfactorily in spite of a long wait in the rain for the procession. Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, Lieut.-General Sir Edward Hutton, and General Fortescue came to lunch.

On the 10th December the Battalion played the first round of the Army Cup against the R.A.M.C. The R.A.M.C. were much the stronger side, but in spite of playing with a strong wind the first half, failed to score, although pressing hard round our goal the whole of this half. Soon after changing over the R.A.M.C. scored off rather an unfortunate penalty, and then scored again very soon after. Sergt. Young scored off a very good shot, thus making the score 2—1 against us. The rest of the game was very hard fought, the R.A.M.C. scoring once more just before the end.

The following notice appeared in Battalion Orders of the 11th December:—

“The C.O. wishes to congratulate all members of the Battalion football team on the splendid fight they put up yesterday in the match against a very strong team. By this excellent play against such odds so soon after their arrival in a new Command, they have established a reputation which redounds much to the credit of the Battalion, and augurs well for the future of the team.”

The original side selected was as follows:—Lieut. Austin, goal;

Captain Wilson and Bdm. Hope, backs ; Corpl. Netts, Sergt.-Bglr. Westwood, and Rfn. Cunningham, half-backs ; Rfn. Sonnex, Sergt. Mansbridge, Sergt. Young, L.-Corpl. Swain, and Rfn. Clulow, forwards.

Unfortunately Bdm. Hope and Rfn. Cunningham were unable to play. Sergt. Westwood played left back, Corpl. Netts centre-half, Sergt. Mansbridge, right-half, Rfn. Staples, left-half, Rfn. Sonnex, inside-right, and Bdm. Mackinson, outside-right.

On 13th December one platoon, under Lieut. North, had to be sent on detachment to guard an empty prisoners of war camp at Bramley, near Basingstoke. This was Lieut. Mauduit's platoon, who returned from Hythe on the 19th and relieved Lieut. North on the 20th.

Lieut.-Colonel L. F. Philips, C.M.G., O.B.E., D.S.O., relinquished command of the Battalion December 18th, 1919, on the termination of his period of command. Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Sir G. A. Armytage, Bart., C.M.G., D.S.O., on promotion to Lieut.-Colonel, December 18th, 1919, assumed command of the Battalion.

Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Sir H. Wake, Bart., C.M.G., D.S.O., joined Battalion December 21st, 1919, and assumed duties of Second in Command.

Christmas leave commenced on December 23rd to the 29th. Only approximately 160 other ranks were left in barracks for Christmas.

At the end of the year the distribution of officers and W.O.'s was as follows :—

Lieut.-Colonel Sir G. A. Armytage, Bart.,	
C.M.G., D.S.O. — — — —	Commanding Officer.
Major and Bt. Lieut.-Colonel Sir H. Wake,	
Bart., C.M.G., D.S.O. — — — —	Second in Command.
Capt. T. N. F. Wilson, D.S.O., M.C. — —	Adjutant.
„ H. Moulsher — — — —	Quartermaster.
Lieut. T. Shirley — — — —	Assistant Adjutant.
„ A. Hopkins, D.C.M. — — — —	Messing Officer.
„ B. T. Wolfe (Cheshire Regt.) —	Education Officer.

A COMPANY.

(To carry out Individual Training, March, 1920.)

Major E. B. Denison, D.S.O., M.C.
 Capt. G. Walmsley, O.B.E.

B COMPANY.

(To carry out Individual Training during January, 1920.)

Capt. and Bt. Major S. H. Ferrand, D.S.O., M.C.
 Capt. M. S. Ormrod, D.S.O.
 Lieut. A. E. Austin, M.C.
 „ R. E. F. G. North.
 „ G. W. E. J. Erskine.
 „ L. A. N. Morris.

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C COMPANY.

(To carry out Individual Training, February, 1920.)

Capt. and Bt. Major P. J. R. Currie, O.B.E., M.C.

Capt. R. Richards.

Lieut. H. C. E. Mauduit, M.C.

D COMPANY.

(Individual Training completed end of December.)

Major and Bt. Lieut.-Col. G. H. Barnett, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Capt. S. Lucas.

Lieut. R. O. Meyrick.

„ D. G. Buxton.

„ G. H. Richardson.

„ A. M. Ransom, M.C.

Capt. C. Grattan-Bellew - - On leave to 31/1/20 prior to joining.

Major and Bt. Lieut.-Colonel

W. S. W. Parker-Jervis, D.S.O. On leave pending retirement.

Lieut. J. Schofield - - 5th Provisional Company.

„ S. Conroy - - -

„ J. A. Campbell - - Mob. "Directorate, War Office.

„ C. R. Lighton - - Military Operations Directorate,
War Office.

„ G. A. Langley - - Signal School, Maresfield.

Capt. D. B. Morrieson - - Headquarters, Cannock Chase.

Lieut. R. Madeley - - Northern Command Transfer
Centre, Ripon.

2nd Lieut. F. Le Pavoux - - Posted not joined.

Capt. A. Elphinstone* - - Att. from 11th London Regt.

Lieut. F. C. Lawrence* - - Att. from 6th London Regt.

* Employed away from Battalion.

Major and Bt. Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Howard, D.S.O., proceeded during December to Command the 20th Battalion, and Capt. and Bt. Major A. L. Bonham-Carter, D.S.O., to the Depot.

9980 R.-S.-M. Tedder, H., M.C.

5676 B.-M. Brown, T.

9269 R.-Q.-M.-S. Hind, G.

5911 O. R.-Q.-M.-S. Biltcliffe, J.

7320 C.-S.-M.-I.-M. Painting, T.

6600 C.-S.-M. Bennett, W.

A COMPANY.

7198 C.-S.-M. Francis, G.

B COMPANY.

7244 C.-S.-M. Lister, F.

C COMPANY.

2376 C.-S.-M. Tyler, S.

D COMPANY.

5421 C.-S.-M. Horton, J.

Sport at Rugeley, September—October, 1919.

The transformation of Cannock Chase, once a flourishing grouse-moor, into a huge war-time camp, might make one think that all living game thereon would speedily become as extinct as the dodo: this opinion, however, was not shared by Ferrand and Bonham-Carter, who foreseeing the urgent need of suitable recreation pending the Battalion's move to Aldershot, approached Lord Anglesey's agent and hired some 600 acres of highly unpromising looking shooting. Most of this area was moorland, never free from perambulating soldiers and members of the W.A.A.C., while in addition there was about 150 acres of poor arable and pasture land.

The first few days that guns went out were by no means successful: what partridges there were disappeared over the horizon far too speedily, and no one could raise a dog, so that there were long odds against finding a bird unless it fell stone dead. George Barnett gloomily announced that he had worked out the cost per brace to be over 45s. and saw no hopes of getting any more. Better luck was in store, however. We gradually learnt the haunts of every covey, and approached them with consummate cunning and wariness, scorning neither the highest bracken nor the most obstinate fences. On three successive days we ran well into double figures, while the bag was still more increased by several pigeons and rabbits. On one afternoon four guns, led by Charles Howard, actually succeeded in shooting five old grouse, having gone out with intentions of chasing a particular covey of partridges. When October came a portion of the moor not previously shot over was found to contain several pheasants, 37 of which found their way into the bag, thanks chiefly to the three Colonels (Philips, Barnett, and Howard), who found them easier to hit than the smaller birds. Needless to say there was no lack of volunteers for beating among the men.

On one occasion Erskine distinguished himself after an unsuccessful afternoon by bringing down a tame pigeon, for which he was made to pay heavily by the enraged owner. On another occasion an escaped fallow-buck got up within shot, and gave everyone a chance of making a big addition to the larder.

The total bag up to the end of October was 90 partridges, 37 pheasants, 46 rabbits, 1 woodcock, 1 snipe, 13 pigeons, 8 grouse, and 3 various—total 199 head.

We all got the greatest fun out of it and enjoyed it enormous y. Life at Rugeley would have been unbearable without some such means of recreation.

REGIMENTAL RECORDS.

2nd BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

Temp. Lieut.-Colonel H. F. E. Smith, D.S.O.	Commanding Officer.
Capt. (Acting Major) H. W. Butler, M.C.	Second in Command.
Lieut. (Acting Capt.) C. R. Fryer, M.C.	Adjutant.
Major A. E. Robinson, M.C.	Quartermaster.

Total strength: 49 officers and 1178 other ranks.

On January 1st the Battalion was at Alfter, in Germany: it formed part of the 51st Division, belonging to the Army of Occupation in Germany. On March 25th the Battalion moved to Dransdorf, and from thence to Witterschlick, near Bonn. It remained near Bonn until April 10th, when it returned to France, staying at Jolimetz until June 1st. (Jolimetz is a village about twenty miles east of Cambria and a few miles south of Quesnoy.)

It returned home *via* Le Quesnoy and Havre, embarking at the latter place on June 2nd and arriving at Southampton on June 5th. After handing in stores, etc., it proceeded to Winchester, where it arrived on June 6th.

The Battalion was inspected at Winchester on June 9th by Lieut.-General Sir Edward Hutton, K.C.B., *Colonel Commandant*, accompanied by Brig.-General H. R. Mends, C.B., and Acting Lieut.-Colonel E. G. St. Aubyn, D.S.O. At the inspection the Battalion was under command of Lieut.-Colonel H. F. E. Smith, D.S.O., but it consisted of only four officers and sixty-nine other ranks, all others having been sent home on demobilization from France.

After inspecting the cadre the Colonel Commandant addressed them as follows:—"It was true they were only a cadre—the remnant of the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment, in which he himself served for fifty-three years, and a Battalion of whose service in the war he personally felt profoundly proud. It would have been a great pleasure to have seen the whole Battalion come back to the old country as it stood when the Armistice was signed, but circumstances prevented it. Those circumstances necessitated the reduction of the Battalion to a mere representative fraction. They had returned to the old country—a small and almost infinitesimal unit of the British Army and of the Regiment of which they were all so proud. They were, in a sense, the representative men of the 2nd Battalion K.R.R., and all

that stood for the honour and glory of the K.R.R. so far as the 2nd Battalion was concerned. He had no doubt that it was a matter of disappointment to them that they were not welcomed on arrival in the way in which Battalions had been usually welcomed when coming home from active service, especially under such glorious conditions. But that was not possible. No notice was given of their arrival, nor had it been done to the old British Army. He could only assure them of this: there would not have been a Rifleman who would not have been proud to have come there and met such a cadre if he had had the opportunity. He had come to express something of what he felt in regard to the services which the K.R.R., and the 2nd Battalion in particular, had rendered. It was his privilege to be the Colonel Commandant of the 2nd K.R.R., and it was his special privilege on August 8th, 1914, to inspect the Battalion, 1000 strong, at Blackdown. He should never forget the feeling he had when addressing the officers and men on that occasion. He spoke to them from his heart, and he was proud to think that what he said to them had been recollected by many Riflemen now living. He also hoped that possibly the words he used had been of some use and of some help to those who had laid down their lives so gloriously in the various fields of battle in which they died. That being so, they could easily realise how proud he was to come there that day to welcome them on their return, and to assure them how profoundly and how deeply the old officers of the Regiment recognised the value of their valorous services during the war. He could tell them that there was no one connected with the Regiment who had followed the various incidents connected with the war services of the Regiment, and of their Battalion, more closely and with greater satisfaction than their Colonel-in-Chief, his Majesty the King. He could also assure them also that Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell took an intense personal interest in everything that had transpired concerning them. To go through the history of the 2nd Battalion from the commencement to the end of the war was quite beyond his powers, but he hoped that it would be recorded in print for the use of the present generation, and to the great advantage of future generations. He did not think in regard to the first phase of the war there was any more tragic incident in the history of the British Army than the valour with which the Regular Battalions of the Regiment laid down their lives in battle, and as their Battalions ceased to exist, after the Second Battle of Ypres, on May 15th, 1915. The 1st and 2nd Battalions died almost to a man—he thought the better way of expressing it would be to say that they all became casualties—at the First

Battle of Ypres. Then at the end of the First Battle, the 3rd and 4th Battalions came along in the Second Battle of Ypres, fighting in a similar area—another peculiarly tragic event in the history of the Regiment, and he ventured to think a unique one, that the four Regular Battalions should have been annihilated in the same area not more than eight months after the commencement of the campaign. The subsequent history of the 2nd Battalion was beyond his power to recall, but the Battle of Loos was a memorable incident, and the losses which fell to their lot during the first campaign were very considerable indeed, amounting to no less than fifty per cent. of the strength of the Battalion. In 1916, in the Battles of the Somme, the 2nd Battalion were conspicuous, and in 1917 there happened one of the most tragic incidents in their whole war history among any Battalions of the British Army, namely, the destruction of the 2nd Battalion and the 1st Northampton Regiment at Nieuport Bains. It was some satisfaction to feel that the losses experienced there were, to a certain extent, counter-balanced by the losses inflicted on the German troops on October 14th, 1918. He should also mention that, towards the close of hostilities, one of the actions in which the Battalion rendered exceptional service was that of September 24th, 1918, under Lieut.-Colonel Geoffrey St. Aubyn. He congratulated them on their success on that occasion. On two successive occasions, towards the close of hostilities, Colonel St. Aubyn individually distinguished himself, and the Battalion also again acted well up to the finest and best traditions of the Regiment. Proceeding next to congratulate the men who were on parade, the General said he was informed that they included several who had been through the whole campaign from first to last. They were Major Robinson, whom he (Sir Edward) remembered as Sergeant-Major, R.-Q.-M.-S. Crabtree, Sergt. Whittington, Lance.-Corpl. Walton, Rifleman Power, and Rifleman MacMahon. He also understood that on the day of the Armistice that there were twenty-nine of all ranks who were survivors of the Battalion that he had the honour to address on August 8th, 1914—a small remnant surely of the fine Battalion of 1000 men who started out upon that occasion. The Commanding Officers of the Battalion since the commencement of hostilities had been exceptionally capable and able soldiers. Some, alas ! had laid down their lives in battle, and on an occasion like that he could not but mention them with honour, regret, and affection, worthy Riflemen, and worthy leaders at the front. Colonel Serecold, now Brig.-General Serecold, commanded the Battalion on the Aisne, and captured the key of the German position, a fine achievement, and one that would be recorded

in history. Colonel Serecold commanded the Battalion in the First Battle of Ypres, in the *mêlée* which took place in that salient. Next to him came Colonel Philips, now Brig.-General Philips, a most distinguished officer. Then they had as their Commandant Colonel Priaulx, who was killed in action, and next again Colonel Humphrey Bircham, no braver Rifleman than whom ever wore the green coat. Loved by the men, he laid down his life at Osieres in 1916. Following him was Colonel Atkins, and then Colonel Richard Abady, who was with them on the Yser on that memorable and tragic day, and yet one of the most glorious in its history, July 10th, 1917. Following him came Colonel Kelly, now Brig.-General Kelly, and then Colonel Geoffrey St. Aubyn. Last, and not least, they had as their Colonel, Colonel Herbert Smith. It was not possible to enumerate all the honours that the Battalion had gained, but he would mention that they included three V.C.'s, namely, Lieutenant, afterwards Lieut.-Colonel, Dimmer, whose was one of the best-earned Victoria Crosses, perhaps, in the war, he, with his machine gun, having been largely instrumental in bringing to a halt the last attack of the Prussian Guard in the Battle of Ypres. Promoted to the command of a Battalion of another Regiment, he laid down his life in the hour of a victorious assault. The others, were Rifleman Marriner and Rifleman Parchment. In conclusion, General Hutton said he heartily congratulated those whom he saw before him on being worthy sons and worthy descendants of the great Regiment to which they all belonged. They, Riflemen, drew no distinctions between themselves and other Regiments; they aimed at being an unsurpassed item in the British Army. That was enough for them. They relied not upon drill, not upon physique, and not even upon organisation for such successes as God had given them, but on the spirit which permeated the Regiment in the past, did at the present, and, please God, would continue to permeate it in the future—the spirit of self-sacrifice and of playing the game of life to a noble end. That was the spirit which made the British Army victorious in its twelve separate arenas of war throughout the globe.

At the call of Colonel Herbert Smith, hearty cheers were raised for the General, and, at the request of the latter, the troops marched past, the General himself taking the salute.

On the 10th June the cadre and the band of the Battalion went on "dispersal leave" for twenty-eight days.

BATTALION RE-FORMED.

On July 1st Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Sir H. Wake, Bart., C.M.G., D.S.O., was appointed to re-form the Battalion at Winchester.

The following officers were posted during July:—

Capt. H. W. Butler, M.C.
 " T. N. Hone, O.B.E.
 " C. S. Price Davies, M.C.
 " Lord L. Mountbatten, G.C.V.O.

On August 5th the Battalion cadre, strength 4 officers and 35 other ranks, proceeded to Rugeley Camp, Stafford, where it was attached to 5th Battalion K.R.R.C. (then under command of Lieut.-Colonel W. S. W. Parker-Jervis, D.S.O.), to reform.

On August 15th Colonel H. C. R. Green, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., was appointed to command.

The Battalion was formed as an Accounting Unit on August 30th, and absorbed all details of 5th Battalion K.R.R.C., which then proceeded to Winchester to be demobilized.

Strength of 2nd Battalion in August, 49 officers, and 1304 other ranks, including about 27 officers and 983 other ranks awaiting demobilization.

The following officers were posted to the Battalion and left it during August and September:—

Joined Battalion.

Lieut.-Col. and Bt. Col. H. C. R. Green, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
 Major and Bt. Lieut.-Col. B. J. Majendie, C.M.G., D.S.O.
 Lieut. C. H. D. King, D.S.O., M.C.
 " W. F. Wilson.
 Capt. E. F. Campbell, D.S.O.
 " H. C. Lloyd, M.C.
 " D. C. L. Speed, O.B.E.
 Lieut. G. R. C. Wyndham, M.C.
 " J. R. Perceval Maxwell.
 " A. Scragg.
 " F. R. Harman.
 " M. D. B. Lister.
 2nd Lieut. H. Chevis.
 " G. N. H. Taunton Collins.
 " C. J. Wilson.
 " R. A. T. Eve.
 Lieut. W. J. Jones.
 2nd Lieut. S. S. Hickinbotham.
 Lieut. T. E. H. Davies.
 2nd Lieut. O. St. G. P. Nugent.
 Lieut. W. L. C. Haslam.
 " C. Savin.
 " F. L. Trotter.
 2nd Lieut. S. C. Eves.
 Capt. C. W. F. Stafford.
 Lieut. R. H. Boothroyd.
 2nd Lieut. G. Tuxford.
 Major A. C. Oppenheim, D.S.O.
 Capt. H. M. Griffiths.
 Lieut. F. C. Cull.

2nd Lieut. J. M. Turner.
 " S. A. Bates.
 Capt. T. Wadner.
 Lieut. J. W. Wellwood.
 " G. R. Warrington.
 " A. C. Soutten, M.C.
 2nd Lieut. J. G. Morant.
 Lieut. S. J. Chapman.

Left Battalion.

Capt. Lord L. Mountbatten, g.c.v.o.	30/8/19.	Placed on half-pay owing to ill-health.
2nd Lieut. J. G. Morant — —		To Dispersal, 13/9/19.
Bt. Lieut.-Col. B. J. Majendie, C.M.G., D.S.O. — — —		To 3rd Bn. K.R.R.C., 15/9/19.
2nd Lieut. O. St. G. P. Nugent		To 4th Bn. K.R.R.C., 22/9/19.
Lieut. S. J. Chapman — — —		To Dispersal, 30/9/19.

RAILWAY STRIKE DUTY AT BIRMINGHAM.

On September 30th the Railway Strike broke out, and the Battalion proceeded by lorry at seventy-two hours' notice to Birmingham, where it remained on guard over railway stations and stores until October 10th, when it returned by rail to Rugeley. No incident occurred during the Strike.

RETURN TO RUGELEY.

During the months of October and November demobilization of the remaining officers and other ranks serving on a war period engagement proceeded rapidly.

Brevet Lieut.-Colonel R. G. Jelf, C.M.G., D.S.O., was posted to Battalion as Second in Command and joined for duty on October 15th.

The following officers were posted to the Battalion and left it during October and November :—

Joined Battalion.

Lieut. G. B. Morris (London Regt.)	—	—	—	15/10/19.
Bt. Lieut.-Col. R. G. Jelf, C.M.G., D.S.O.	—	—	—	15/10/19.
Lieut. E. G. Kempson	—	—	—	28/10/19.
Capt. R. Pennefather	—	—	—	31/10/19.
Lieut. A. A. Whitney	—	—	—	3/11/19.
Capt. G. Smith	—	—	—	4/11/19.
Lieut. V. H. Gray	—	—	—	10/11/19.
Bt. Major G. R. Dubs	—	—	—	11/11/19.
Lieut. D. Allhusen	—	—	—	19/11/19.
Capt. D. C. L. Speed, O.B.E.	—	—	—	26/11/19.

Left Battalion.

Lieut. T. E. H. Davies	-	-	Resigned Commission, 18/10/19.
Lieut. G. B. Morris (London	-	-	
Regt.)	-	-	To Dispersal, 15/10/19.
Capt. C. W. F. Stafford	-	-	To Rifle Depot, 28/10/19.

Capt. H. M. Griffith	-	-	To Dispersal, 14/11/19.
Lieut. A. A. Whitney	-	-	" "
" W. L. C. Haslam	-	-	" "
" G. R. Warrington	-	-	" "
" R. H. Boothroyd	-	-	" "
" G. Tuxford	-	-	" "
" A. S. Bates	-	-	" "
" S. S. Hickinbotham	-	-	" "
" J. W. Wellwood	-	-	" "
2nd Lieut. S. C. Eves	-	-	" "
" J. M. Turner	-	-	" "
" J. M. Bernard (London	-	-	" "
Regt.)	-	-	" "
Lieut. W. J. Jones	-	-	To Dispersal, 15/11/19.

MOVE TO PORTSMOUTH.

The Battalion, strength 21 officers and 420 other ranks, moved to Victoria Barracks, Portsmouth, on November 10th. The following detachments were found:—

1 Officer and 70 N.C.O.'s and Riflemen at Netley Hospital.

2 Officers and 80 " " " at Southampton.

During December 40 N.C.O.'s and Riflemen from the Special Service Company of the Regiment recently returned from North Russia joined the Battalion.

The following officers were posted to and left the Battalion during December:—

Posted to Battalion.

Major G. H. Martin, C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E.

" F. V. Yeats Brown.

Capt. R. G. Bewicke Copley.

Left Battalion.

Capt. J. S. Poole, D.S.O. - - Resigned Commission, 2/12/19.

Major A. C. Oppenheim, D.S.O. - Retired on retired pay, 5/12/19.

Lieut. V. H. Gray - - - To Rifle Depot, 6/12/19.

BATTALION RECORDS.

3rd BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

On January 1st, 1919, the Battalion was still in reserve at Vetrina in the entrance to the Rupel Pass. We, however, shortly received orders to be prepared to move to Constantinople by sea, and with this object in view the Battalion was moved by rail to Salonika and went into camp at Dudular. Acting Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Ponsonby, D.S.O., M.C., was in command.

Finding the camp chosen for us to be in the most exposed position we decided to move, and made ourselves a very nice camp on a piece of quite new ground about a mile away.

We hung about here for some time awaiting a ship and getting various contradictory orders. During this time the Battalion was brought up to the strength of about 880 by two most excellent drafts of 1/4th Devons and 1/6th Somerset Light Infantry and a small draft of 1/4th Middlesex Regiment, all old Territorials who had been out in India during the greater part of the war and were on their way home for demobilisation. Some of them had seen service in Mesopotamia and the North-West Frontier.

These men, to do them justice, one and all pocketed their disappointment and set to work with a will to learn rifle drill with great keenness and excellent results.

Eventually, all attempts to get a ship having failed, the Battalion was ordered to proceed to Constantinople by rail, once more back by Vetrina and the Struma.

The first party, consisting of Battalion Headquarters and two Companies, left on the night of January 28th-29th, and after a long and dreary journey arrived at Constantinople at about midnight February 2nd-3rd. This detachment then proceeded in the most archaic imaginable paddle ferry boat to Haidar Pasha, on the Anatolian shore of the Bosphorous and just opposite Constantinople proper.

Here we took up our quarters in the Turkish Medical College, a building of truly palatial proportions.

The second two Companies had a still more unpleasant journey with two breakdowns on the way. In one the last two trucks were derailed and were towed along—shedding men, stores, and equipment for a kilo before the engine driver could be persuaded to stop.

On arrival in the Constantinople area we became nobody's child, and almost each week found us under a new administration. Sometimes we were under Allied Headquarters, sometimes British Headquarters, then an Administrative Commandant, and finally the 28th Division. Once we were the Army of the Middle East and then the Army of the Black Sea.

One thing, however, was quite clear and that was that we had to look after the welfare of half Anatolia, and do it in the usual British method of sending a Lance-Corporal and three Riflemen to look after half a district; and very well they did it, too.

The nominal duty of the Battalion was to keep the peace, do a certain amount of intelligence work, and guard the railway. The actual duty resolved itself more or less into the latter duty.

For this duty the Battalion was split up into four main detachments. Each Company generally had to find several smaller posts as occasion demanded.

It should be understood that a very considerable proportion of the inhabitants, although Turkish subjects, were actually Greeks or Armenians and considered themselves allies.

These people looked upon us as their deliverers and hailed us as such, and they not infrequently made things a little difficult for us by overstepping the mark in the line of baiting the Turk whilst seeking protection under our skirts.

These people always gave us enthusiastic welcomes wherever we went, and endless petitions and addresses were presented to us. In actual form they varied little, and were very much of the same variety as the two examples given here.

Address handed to O.C. A Company on landing at Mudania, Sea of Marmora:—

“Sir,—I come to tell you the welcome from the part of the whole Greek community. Several centuries of suffering were heavily pressing our breasts, and, behold, to-day we see our old wishes fulfilled.

“We see You, the children of Noble Albion, passing oceans and seas to bring us like angels of liberty the so-much desired freedom. Like angels of light you came to give us the happiness of being raised up again, and pour some divine medicine into our aching souls. Welcome, our Liberators. Welcome, our noble guard.

“There is nothing remaining now to me but to pray to God and cry as the Prophet Simeon: Now my Lord you can take your servant in peace, because my eyes saw what they had been longing for.

“Mudania,

“February 17th, 1919.”

Address handed to O.C. A Company, at the time a 2nd Lieutenant:—

“To the most brave Commander-in-Chief of the British troops of Occupation of Mudania:—

“Sir,—The population of Mudania, thinking that the moment has come for all Nationalities to express their wish as to their future administration, has assembled to-day voluntarily and praised God for His kindness and magnanimity.

“It thinks at the same time his duty to thank in your person the Allied Armies who, by their undeniable persistence, impetuosity, and unconquerable valour, have beaten the common enemies who endeavoured to subdue all the nations under their infernal yoke.

“It is sure that our great Allies who have always protected the small and subdued nations in their strives against their tyrants and especially the Greek nation, will take notice of its unanimous wish to be united to its Mother Greece, and begs you to have the kindness and transmit the present resolution to the Government of Great Britain on the support and protection of which most of its hopes are based.

“Mudania, March 3rd-16th, 1919,

“The Committee.

“(Signed) A. D. GATANO.”

The grammar of the second paragraph does not make it quite clear whether it is the duty of the population of Mudania or the Almighty to thank the Allied Armies!

The above addresses are given exactly as received. The Battalion Headquarters and D Company were stationed at Haidar Pasha. A Company, under the command of 2nd Lieut. Gibson, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, attached to the Battalion, had Headquarters and two platoons at Mudania, seventy-five miles across the Sea of Marmora, and two platoons at Brussa, the old capital of Turkey, and about fifteen miles inland, under 2nd Lieut. Browne, also King's Own.

Brussa is a very picturesque city, and for a Turkish one clean and comparatively devoid of smells.

B Company, under Capt. Fletcher, was sent to Ismid at the eastern end of the Gulf of that name, and about seventy-five miles from Haidar Pasha, on the Bagdad railway.

The Goeben and Breslau were interned here during the Armistice, and owing to their still being allowed to fly the Turkish flag the Turks put about the story that they were there to see that the British troops in Ismid behaved themselves.

C Company, under Captain Fitton, went to Angora, a distance of about 400 miles, and the terminus of the broad gauge line which fed the Russo-Turkish front in the Caucasus.

Various small posts were found at the intermediate stations as occasion demanded.

The usual reason was a threatened raid on the railway or a reported intention on the part of the Turks to massacre the Greeks or Armenians. And many a wild-goose chase we went on for the latter reason, owing to the scaremongers.

Visiting the detachments at these great distances was rather an undertaking. On one occasion the C.O. visited Mudania, crossing the Sea of Marmora in a trawler, whose skipper was very doubtful of his surroundings. She left Galata on the European side at about midnight, fouled two ships in succession in the Golden Horn, and piled herself up on the rocks half-way to Mudania during a fog at about 04.00 hours. We got a little quiet fun out of the skipper by telling him that the place was infested with brigands of the worst type, incidentally probably quite true, and so causing him to serve out the emergency arms. We tried every known means of getting her off, but it was not until a French steamer came along about twelve hours afterwards that we managed to move with her help.

Towards the end of April news was received that the Battalion was to be reduced to a cadre and proceed home with a view to re-forming and proceeding abroad early in the autumn. We were given to understand that "Abroad" was almost certainly India.

By May 7th the cadre had been formed, and the remainder of the personnel to the extent of about 600 were transferred to the 8th Battalion Oxford and Bucks L.I., who had just come from the Danube.

The Commander-in-Chief, General Sir George Milne, came to say good-bye to us, and spoke very appreciatively of the work which the Battalion had done whilst under his command.

We were very sorry to have to leave behind so many good fellows to continue the dull work of occupation whilst we went back to our homes, but they were cheered up by the promise of the Commander-in-Chief that their release would come quickly, and in fact the first batch caught us up on the way.

On May 14th we said good-bye to those we left behind, and embarked on the R.I.M.S. *Kappurthala* and sailed on 15th via the Dardanelles to Salonika, where we had to face one of the worst of the horrors of war by going into the notorious Summer Hill rest camp to await a ship to Taranto.

On 22nd we embarked on S.S. *Maple*, and passing through the Corinth Canal arrived at Taranto on the 24th. Here we went into rest camp until 28th, when we entrained for Boulogne.

We arrived at Dover on the morning of June 6th, and at Aldershot that evening just in time for the officers of the cadre to slip up to London for the Regimental Dinner.

The following day the cadre was sent on leave or discharge, and Lieut.-Colonel Warre, D.S.O., who was already commanding what had hitherto been known as the "Foreign Service Details," took over command of what was shortly to become the new 3rd Battalion.

Thus after four-and-a-half years of active service the Battalion returned home. Not perhaps quite so battle-worn as some others owing to the more limited opportunities, but with the sense of duty well and truly done and the reputation of the Regiment worthily maintained.

During that period the Battalion had seen service in Belgium, France, Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Turkey, which in itself is a record to be proud of.

SPECIAL ORDER

By Lieut.-Colonel H. C. PONSONBY, D.S.O., M.C., Commanding
3rd Battalion.

On the departure of the cadre of the Battalion for home I wish to take the opportunity of bidding farewell to those of you who are left behind and of wishing you all as speedy a return home as possible.

I wish to express my very great appreciation and thanks for the splendid way in which all ranks have played the game during the recent spell of dull but by no means easy work, with its many disappointments with regard to demobilization.

I wish most especially that you non-commissioned officers and men who have come from other units shall realize how much I have appreciated your services and your excellent discipline.

I quite realize the many hardships and discomforts you have had to suffer and the excellent spirit with which you set to work to learn the new customs and drill of a Rifle Regiment, I feel confident that you will all continue in your new unit with the same good spirit and good discipline and will give your new Commanding Officer the same excellent support which you have given to me.

In the years to come when you have forgotten the long waiting and disappointments you will look back with pride on the share which you have taken in defeating the enemy and finally in ensuring his compliance with our just demands.

For my part I shall always remember with pride and gratitude the services which you have rendered to the Regiment whilst under my command.

Good-bye, good luck and a speedy return home.

H. C. PONSONBY, *Lieut.-Colonel*,
 Constantinople, Commanding 3rd Battalion,
May 2nd, 1919. The King's Royal Rifle Corps.

A copy of the above was given to every N.C.O. and Rifleman.

On arrival of the cadre at Aldershot on June 6th, 1919, it was amalgamated with the Foreign Service Details, who were awaiting at Blenheim Barracks.

This day marks the date of the re-forming of the 3rd Battalion, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Warre, D.S.O.

It was already known that the Battalion was among those selected for service in India at an early date, therefore preparations were made to prepare the Battalion accordingly.

At this time we formed part of the North Camp Infantry Brigade together with the 4th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps and the 1st and 4th Battalions of the Rifle Brigade.

Steady progress was made in the training of recruits, of which about eighty per cent. of the Battalion consisted.

Small drafts of re-enlisted Riflemen and recruits arrived from the Rifle Depot each Tuesday and Friday; these together with a steady flow of Headquarter recruits soon brought the Battalion up to its required strength.

Week-end leave was liberally given by the Commanding Officer each week from Fridays to Tuesdays (before the war it was a great privilege to get from after duty on Saturdays until Tattoo on Sundays).

On July 14th the following message was received from the G.O.C.-in-Chief at Aldershot:—"The G.O.C.-in-Chief wishes to express his appreciation of the work done recently by the units under your command in connection with the heath fires in the neighbourhood of Fox Hills."

On July 19th the Battalion was represented at the Victory March through London by twenty other ranks under the command of 2nd Lieut. (now Lieut.) R. D. Chenevix-Trench.

This party proceeded to London on July 18th, and was encamped in Kensington Gardens.

On July 22nd the Battalion was represented at the Memorial Service to the Regiment and the Rifle Brigade at Westminster Abbey. Those who attended this Service can never forget its intense impressiveness.

After the Service the Guard of Honour, of which the Battalion formed part, was inspected by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, and the highest praise was given on this occasion, one old Rifle Adjutant remarking, "It did his heart good to see it."

Musketry was now in progress, and A Company had just completed Part III when instructions were received from the War Office for the Battalion to prepare to embark for India at an early date and to despatch all ranks on draft leave forthwith.

Musketry had therefore to be postponed, and with the exception of about fifty other ranks the whole of the Battalion proceeded on three weeks' leave during the next few days.

Just previous to the foregoing, orders were also received to hold in readiness an advance party of two officers and twenty other ranks to precede the Battalion to India.

This party, under the command of Major H. C. Ponsonby, D.S.O., M.C., subsequently embarked for India on September 15th.

The General Officer Commanding North Aldershot inspected the Barracks on Wednesday, September 3rd, and met all officers and senior N.C.O.'s who were remaining in Barracks. He was well satisfied with his visit.

On September 15th the advance party previously referred to, embarked at Liverpool on S.S. *Teucer* for Bombay.

After a few variations in the date of embarkation of the Battalion, orders were definitely received to embark at Southampton on October 6th. The War Office had previously intimated that families would accompany the Battalion, but owing to lack of shipping accommodation "It was regretted that families could not accompany but would follow shortly after the Battalion."

At the last moment and for the same reason nine officers had to be left behind.

All was now practically ready when railway traffic was brought to a standstill by the memorable strike. The effect of this, as far as the Battalion is concerned, will never be known.

On one hand it was the cause of some fifty men being absent—men who could *not* get back, while on the other hand, had traffic been normal, many would have applied for a "farewell" leave with perhaps more disastrous results.

However, on Monday, October 6th, the Battalion left Aldershot under motor power, fifty-seven lorries being requisitioned for the journey to Southampton, which was accomplished in three and a half hours.

We arrived at Winchester at 11 a.m. and "parked" on the famous square at the Rifle Depot. This event must necessarily live as a great one in the history of the Regiment.

Never before and probably never again will those old Riflemen, who so enthusiastically received us that morning, see a similar sight. Refreshment was liberally given us, and it was a fitting conclusion to our very short stay in England to spend our last hour at the home of the Regiment.

We thoroughly enjoyed the halt and shall always remember the kind hospitality shown us. It was now time to proceed, and after many handshakes and hopes of meeting again the first lorry passed the guard room by the gate (so well known to many of us in our younger days) at 1 o'clock, followed by the remaining fifty-six, and ere the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" had died away we were "rattling o'er the stony street" on our way to Southampton.

The Docks were reached at 2.30 p.m., and it was then we saw the much-talked-of S.S. *City of Sparta*.

We were much disappointed to find that, although the War Office regretted that our families could not accompany owing to lack of accommodation, the S.S. *City of Sparta* had already many women and children on board.

The boat stayed alongside that night, and at 12 noon next day we commenced the voyage, which it is the ambition of so many young soldiers to enjoy.

A list of farewell messages exchanged is attached.

Gibraltar, Port Said, and the Suez Canal were all passed in turn, and after a very favourable voyage we arrived at Bombay on October 30th.

"To His Majesty the King.

"Loyal and respectful good wishes to your Majesty from all ranks of the 3rd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps embarking to-day for India."

"From His Majesty the King.

"O.C., 3rd K.R.R.C.,

"c/o Embarkation, Southampton.

"I have received with much pleasure the loyal telegram from all ranks of the Third Sixtieth which you have sent me on the occasion of your embarkation for India. In wishing you all a safe journey I should like to assure all ranks of my abiding interest in the welfare of the Regiment.

"GEORGE, R.I.,

"Colonel-in-Chief."

"From Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

"Colonel Warre,

"60th Blenheim Barracks, Aldershot.

"Please say good-bye for me to your Battalion, in which I once served and to which I wish all good luck in the future.

"LORD GRENFELL."

"From Major-General R. S. R. Fetherstonhaugh, C.B., Colonel Commandant.

"Colonel Warre,

"c/o Embarkation, Southampton.

"Wish you and all ranks of the 3rd Battalion a happy and prosperous voyage and very good luck in the future.

"GENERAL FETHERSTONHAUGH."

"From Major-General C. R. R. McGrigor, C.B., C.M.G.

"Colonel Warre,

"City of Sparta, Southampton.

"Best luck to you and Battalion.

"GENERAL MCGRIGOR."

"From 1st Battalion K.R.R.C.

"Commanding 3rd Battalion K.R.R.

"Southampton Docks.

"A good voyage and the best of luck from all ranks 1st Battalion 60th Rifles, Commanding."

"From Major-General The Hon. Sir A. R. Montagu Stuart Wortley, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

"Colonel Warre,

"Blenheim House, Aldershot.

"Wishing you and all ranks of the old 3rd Battalion the best of luck.

"GENERAL DICK STUART WORTLEY."

Great credit is due to the band for the good programmes which they played each day during the voyage, under Bandmaster H. B. Lovell; and Captain R. P. G. Ireland, M.C., was responsible for an excellent Boxing Competition on board the ship, in which the 87th and 120th Batteries, R.F.A., and our own men produced some good sport.

The Battalion thus arrived at Bombay on October 30th (as already stated), and entrained the same night in two special

trains to proceed to Mhow; the first train arrived about 8 a.m. on the morning of November 1st, and the second about mid-day the same date. Mhow is near Indore, in Central India.

Thus, after five eventful years, the Battalion returned to India: it may be of interest to recall the fact that it was in the middle of October, 1914, that the 3rd and 4th Battalions both left Bombay on board the S.S. *Ionian* for the War. During this period how many of all ranks had been lost to the Regiment? There were indeed few of the old lot remaining to form a link with the pre-War history of the Regiment in India. Perhaps of those who actually made the voyage on board the *City of Sparta* to Bombay in 1919, the Quartermaster, Major A. C. Watkins, D.C.M., was the only officer who had been with the 3rd Battalion during its voyage to Europe in the *Ionian* in 1914; but there were several officers and N.C.O.'s serving with the Battalion in India within a few weeks of its landing at Bombay in 1919 who had been serving in India either with the 3rd or 4th Battalions shortly before the War in 1914. Among these we may mention Colonel H. C. Warre, D.S.O., now Commanding the 3rd Battalion, and then Second in Command; Bt. Lieut.-Colonel B. J. Majendie, D.S.O., in 1919 Second in Command, 3rd Battalion, and in 1914 Major in 4th Battalion; Temp. Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Ponsonby, D.S.O., M.C., before the War Adjutant of 4th Battalion, now in 3rd Battalion; A./Lieut.-Colonel A. A. Soames, D.S.O., before the War Captain in 3rd Battalion; Captain R. Fitton, M.C., formerly Colour-Sergeant of C Company; Captain E. R. Herbert, before the War Lieutenant in 3rd Battalion. We have already mentioned the Quartermaster. Among Warrant and N.C.O.'s we may mention the Bandmaster, Mr. Lovell, who had been with the Battalion for a good many years before the War, but had not been fighting with the Battalion during the War. Among veteran N.C.O.'s who had helped to bear the brunt of fighting during the War and were with the Battalion at Mhow in the cold weather, 1919-20, may be mentioned C.-S.-M.'s Mitchell and Bunker and Battalion Q.-M.-S. Tyler, all three of whom had been with the Battalion pretty well throughout the War, and were with it at Mhow either on arrival or shortly afterwards; C.-S.-M. Buchanan, who had been with the Battalion Machine-Gun Section in Belgium, and afterwards with the 80th Brigade M.G. Company; C.-Q.-M.-S. Woods, who had been on 80th Infantry Brigade Headquarters; Sergt. Tuck; Sergt. Robinson, and perhaps one or two others whose names have not reached us. We may also mention two officers who were serving with the 3rd Battalion in India before the War and had now returned to India with the 4th Battalion at Belgaum, namely,

Captain E. D. Shafto and Major Sir John V. E. Lees, Bart., D.S.O., M.C.

But to return to the narrative, The Battalion on reaching Mhow on November 1st found cause to appreciate the War Office's move in sending advanced parties on ahead. Our little party had worked remarkably well in the short time at their disposal, and we found the bungalows almost ready for occupation.

The following are the most important events that have taken place since our arrival at Mhow :—

November 10th. A Company, under Capt. C. H. Hordern, proceeded to Indore to take over the detachment from the M.G.C.

November 11th. The King-Emperor's message regarding the Armistice. Silence was observed.

November 14th. The Battalion was inspected by Major-General Sir G. V. Kemball, K.C.M.G., C.B., Commanding 5th (Mhow) Division.

November 17th. Major and Bt. Lieut.-Colonel B. J. Majendie, C.M.G., D.S.O., rejoined the Battalion from England.

November 24th. The following officers rejoined the Battalion from England :—

Capt. G. B. Eden.
" R. Fitton, M.C.
Lieut. S. C. F. De Salis.
" W. H. E. Gott.
" J. R. N. Garton.
" C. B. Lee-Steere.
2nd Lieut. A. G. Barker.

November 24th. Capt. C. Allen, 3rd Bn. Royal Berks Regt., joined Battalion as Education Officer.

December 1st. Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Warre, D.S.O., assumed Command of the Station, *vice* Major-General Sir G. V. Kemball, K.C.M.G., C.B.

December 11th. C Company moved to Indore to take over the detachment from A Company. A Company returned to Mhow.

November 9th. Work under the Education Scheme commenced.

December 17th. Twenty-five women and twenty-five children arrived from England.

December 27th. Twenty other ranks voluntarily proceeded on service with the East Persian Malmiss Force.

BATTALION RECORDS.

4th BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

1919.

The New Year found the Battalion at La Longueville, four miles west of Maubeuge, with the remainder of the Brigade (151st of the 50th Division) at Bavai and Divisional Headquarters at Le Quesnoy.

Lieut.-Colonel J. B. Brady was commanding and the Battalion was much as it was at the Armistice, as demobilization had not yet started, and only two small drafts had been received, though about a dozen new officers had joined.

The billets were good and the men very comfortable. Each Company had its own dining and recreation room and football field, and the Town Hall, which had been converted into a gaily-decorated theatre by the Germans, was usually crowded by men attending concerts, revues, and the cinema.

In the mornings two Companies were usually employed on salvage work north and south of the village, while the others did a short parade or attended the Voluntary Education Classes in French, English, and Shorthand-Typing. Others were away on more practical courses, and altogether there were at this time about 300 other ranks attending classes under this scheme. In the afternoons there was always football (a Platoon League Competition was started) and boxing and rugger matches and sports as they could be arranged.

Leave was granted freely, though as soon as demobilization started it was confined to those who were not going to be demobilized.

January 1st. Major Groombridge, M.C., with a party of ten men went to Le Quesnoy to take part in the Divisional Boxing Competition. A tea for the children of the village was given in the Officers' Mess, at which about 130 children were present, and toys were given away from a Christmas Tree.

We played No. 4 Company A.S.C. Divisional Train at rugger, and were beaten 8—0. The Colonel dined at Brigade Headquarters at a farewell party given by the Brigadier.

January 2nd. The Brigadier (Brig.-General R. E. Sugden, D.S.O.) came and said good-bye to the Battalion, and thanked all ranks for the part they had played during the last few months.

Colonel Mallinson, 1st K.O.Y.L.I., took over the Brigade temporarily.

January 3rd. There was a conference of Company Commanders, to discuss improvements in mails, messing, etc., and to settle the cadre of the Battalion in connection with the Demobilization Scheme.

January 4th. Finals of the Divisional Boxing at Le Quesnoy. The Battalion did exceedingly well, and won the heavy and light-heavy-weights (Sergt. Partridge and Rifleman Nichols), whilst in the other three weights we had one runner-up and the two best losers.

January 5th. The Demobilization Scheme came into force, and two Riflemen left for England.

January 6th. A Battalion match in the afternoon, Possibles v. Probables, drawn, 1 goal all.

January 7th. A Lecture was given in the theatre by Mr. Ronald Guernar, B.A., on the "British Colonies and how we obtained them." It was largely attended. Demobilization was suspended. Another Possibles v. Probables was played in the afternoon, which the latter won, 2—0.

January 8th. A four-mile Cross Country Run, with 35 starters, took place in the afternoon. Sergt. Brooks 1st, Captain Wells 2nd. A, D, and Headquarters Companies gave a concert in the evening, which was greatly appreciated. The theatre was packed.

January 9th. The Divisional Cinema gave two performances in the theatre.

January 10th. The Battalion played football against the Divisional A.S.C. at Bavai, and defeated them 4—0. Demobilization re-opened.

January 14th. Captain Antrobus left the Battalion for England—the first officer to be demobilized. Lieut. Kerr rejoined the Battalion from the 3rd Dorset Regiment.

January 15th. The Battalion were beaten at football by the 7th Wiltshires, 2—0.

January 16th. Major Groombridge took the boxers over to Le Quesnoy, and then proceeded to U.K. on a month's leave.

The officers of the Battalion produced a revue, entitled, "Hullo Sixtieth," assisted by the Cinema and Band of the 6th Inniskilling Fusiliers. It was a great success, and two autograph programmes were sold for the Riflemen's Aid Society and realized 150 and 100 francs.

January 17th. The Adjutant (Captain Miller) returned from leave, and Lieut.-Colonel A. A. Soames, D.S.O., rejoined the Battalion and took over command. A *matinée* of the revue was given, which was largely attended by other units of the Division.

January 18th. The 13th Corps Boxing Competition took place at Cambrai. Sergt. Partridge won the Heavy-weight Cup, and Rifleman Davies the "Runner-up" Cup for the Bantam-weights. There was a large attendance at the last night of the revue, at which the Divisional Commander (Major-General Jackson, D.S.O.), and many other officers were present. Two programmes were auctioned for the R.A.S., and realised 350 and 105 francs.

Lieut.-Colonel J. B. Brady, D.S.O., left the Battalion for England.

January 19th. The new Brigadier (Brig.-General Minshall-Ford, D.S.O., M.C.) visited the Battalion.

January 20th. The officers of the Battalion who had served in Salonika played those who had not, at football, and beat them 2—0. Captain Moore gave a very interesting Lecture on "Demobilization and Reconstruction."

January 21st. Lieut. L. S. Burgoyne, who had served in the Battalion since July, 1915, left for England to be demobilized.

January 25th. The first three Riflemen to be re-enlisted under the new Short Service Scheme were attested.

January 31st. Total of officers and other ranks demobilized to date:—

Officers	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Other Ranks	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	60
Regular Soldiers (28 days leave)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	28
Watford Details	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Coal Miners	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	32
								—123

February 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Heavy falls of snow. Two Companies marched daily to Malplaquet (the battlefield) to work on clearing a factory of German shells which were stored there.

February 8th. Captain G. K. Wells, D.S.O., M.C., and Captain C. Smith left the Battalion for England to join up at the Depot after two months' leave.

February 11th. Captain and Quartermaster T. J. Jones also went on two months' leave. A draft of all retainable men was ordered to prepare for the Rhine.

February 14th. The draft was inspected by the Divisional Commander and the Battalion reorganised into three Companies, as follows:—(1) The draft D Company; (2) A Company; (3) Headquarter Company.

February 15th. D Company beat the rest of the Battalion at football, 3—1.

February 17th. Battalion warned to be ready to move to Jolimetz, twelve miles away, near Le Quesnoy, and Adjutant rode over to allot the billets.

February 21st. Battalion marched through Forêt de Mormal to Jolimetz. The new billets were not so good as at La Longueville, as the village had been knocked about a good deal by shell fire.

February 24th. Captain M. L. Buller went to Dieppe in charge of a draft of horses for England. We sent three heavy drafts, and also three animals to Le Quesnoy for sale in the country.

February 26th. Captain and Adjutant E. A. Miller to England on two months' leave. Lieut. W. M. Were-Collins (Dorset Regiment, attached) took over duties of Adjutant. Headquarter Company and A Company amalgamated.

February 28th. Strength of Battalion: Headquarter Company, 125 other ranks; D Company (Rhine Draft), 166 other ranks.

March 3rd. Salvage work begun in Jolimetz area.

March 6th. The survivors of the Fiji contingent, 8 other ranks, went to Winchester for repatriation.

March 21st. Captain M. L. Buller and 2nd Lieut. C. Hopkinson to England on two months' leave.

March 22nd. Warning order received for the Rhine draft to entrain on the 24th.

March 24th. Rhine draft inspected by Lieut.-Colonel Soames, and marched off at 09.45 hours. Strength: 10 officers, 152 other ranks.

March 30th Battalion reduced to cadre strength.

April. This month found the Battalion reduced to cadre strength and with little prospect of getting home for two months, while it had to be prepared as a new unit to go abroad in the autumn. So, towards the end of April the authorities sent a nucleus of men from the 5th Battalion at Rugely to Aldershot and round them started re-forming the Battalion with the title Foreign Service Details, 4th K.R.R.C. The "re-forming" consisted of sending 20—50 men from the Depot twice a week, sometimes with N.C.O.'s, sometimes without. These drafts were sent as men returned from their war leave or re-enlistment furlough, and with few exceptions they were short service men who had never served in the Battalion, the majority being men from graduated Battalions with little or no war service. This process continued until the Battalion sailed for India in October,

and as there was for a long time an acute shortage of officers and no Commanding Officer, and everyone was new to everyone else, there were many difficulties. However, Companies were soon formed and drill and musketry training started, and for the next six months there is little to record, as the whole time was spent either on training or reorganization or else on leave, which was very freely granted, both for the numerous Peace Celebrations and in view of our early departure for India.

April 3rd. The cadre received news that it would probably be relieved by the 2nd Battalion on the 10th.

April 7th Lieut.-Colonel Soames to England Lieut. P. G. C. Debnam took over command of the cadre.

April 11th. 2nd Battalion arrived at 08.30 hours: 4 officers and 104 men, under command of Lieut.-Colonel F. E. Smith, D.S.O.

April 12th. Commenced to hand over Battalion stores to 2nd Battalion.

April 16th. Handing over of stores to 2nd Battalion completed.

It may here be stated that the cadre remained at Jolimetz until June 1st, when it entrained for Le Havre, and embarked there for Southampton on June 7th. It arrived at Southampton on 8th and went to Aldershot, where it absorbed the Foreign Service Details who were awaiting its arrival at Malplaquet Barracks, North Camp. A plan to send the Battalion to Aintree on arrival in England had been cancelled.

The following King's Birthday Honours may here be mentioned:—

MILITARY CROSS.

Lieut. (A./Capt.) and Adjutant E. A. Miller.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

C.-S.-M. Pugh.

C.-S.-M. Lee.

R.-Q.-M.-S. Wilson.

Sergt. Jackson.

L.-Corpl. Beausang.

Meanwhile the nucleus of men to go on foreign service with the Battalion had been forming at Aldershot, and by the end of April had reached a strength of 4 officers and 87 other ranks; these included the Adjutant (Captain E. A. Miller) and the Quartermaster (Captain T. Jones) and 2nd Lieuts. R. Madeley and A. H. G. House, M.C. The Band also arrived from the Rifle Depot.

Early in May these details, which had at first been with those of the 3rd Battalion in Blenheim Barracks, took over Malplaquet

Barracks, next door, and the details were organized into four Companies, and training was started.

At the end of May the Battalion baggage, which had been at Winchester since November, 1914, was opened, and found to be in very bad condition. Any number of things were broken, and the bilge water of the ship had done much damage. A box of silver cups and trophies was particularly bad.

On May 30th Lieut.-Colonel A. A. Soames left the Battalion to join the North Russia Relief Force.

After the Battalion cadre had arrived from France (strength 3 officers and 29 other ranks) on June 8th, and had absorbed the details, the Battalion began its new organization. Captain E. D. Shafto joined on June 9th, and assumed temporary command. The strength on 9th was 10 officers and 549 other ranks.

June 9th. Lieut. G. K. Wells, D.S.O., M.C., and 2nd Lieut. C. Hopkinson joined. The men of the cadre went on leave.

June 11th. Three officers of cadre, temp. Lieut. P. G. C. Debnam, Lieuts. W. M. W. Collins, M.C., Dorset Regiment, H. J. A. Kerr, 8rd Dorsets, struck off strength of Battalion. These last two officers had served with the Battalion since November, 1916.

June 12th. Commander-in-Chief Aldershot Command, Sir Archibald Murray, inspected the Battalion 09.30 hours.

June 14th. Whole Battalion was turned out in the afternoon to put out a big heath fire at Mytchett.

June 16th. Started firing musketry practices on Ash Ranges.

June 23rd and 24th. Holidays, as the Germans agreed to sign Peace.

June 24th. Captain and Brevet Major Sir J. V. E. Lees, Bart., D.S.O., M.C., joined and assumed command. 2nd Lieut. T. Fetherstonhaugh joined.

June 25th. Captain M. L. Buller, M.C., and Lieut. E. R. Vickers D.C.M., M.M., joined. We beat 3rd Battalion at cricket. Strength: 14 officers; 710 other ranks.

This month the Battalion really got going, the cadre came home, all non-Regular men were sent away and ten officers joined. The men began to get very keen on games, particularly boxing. Training consisted of drill, P.T., musketry, and Lewis gun and range practices—three hours in all every morning. In addition, the R.-S.-M. and P.T. Sergt. took the N.C.O.'s in the afternoon. A recruits' squad of sixty Riflemen was formed under two selected Sergeants.

Training continued on these lines until the Battalion left England. The officers continued to mess with the 3rd Battalion in Blenheim Barracks.

July 3rd. A conference of the officers commanding the four Regular Battalions was held at Aldershot, to discuss the question of W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s, and Dress in the Regiment.

July 9th. The Battalion beat the R.A.F. at cricket.

July 14th. Captain G. S. Oxley, m.c., joined Battalion.

During the past fortnight the Battalion had been employed nearly every day on heath fires, and the G.O.C.-in-Chief expressed his appreciation of their good work.

July 17th. Lieut. E. R. Vickers, D.C.M., M.M., and 24 other ranks were selected to represent the Battalion in the Victory March through London, and the band was ordered to lead the contingent of "Mons" men.

July 18th. The party for the Peace March went to London, and the Battalion, less 30 men per Company, went away on four days' "Peace" leave.

July 19th. "Victory" March through London.

July 20th. 30 other ranks and the band and buglers were selected as part of the Guard of Honour for the Memorial Service to the Rifle Brigade and the Regiment.

July 22nd. Memorial Service in Westminster Abbey, attended by composite Guard of Honour from 1st and 4th R.B. and 3rd and 4th 60th and their bands and buglers.

July 31st. Strength of Battalion: 15 officers; 887 other ranks.

August 1st. Corporals' Club opened.

August 5th. A Company and two platoons of C Company went away on three weeks' embarkation leave; owing to the L. & S.W. Railway Strike they nearly didn't get away.

August 7th. R.-S.-M. Oxley, D.C.M., joined the Battalion.

August 9th. Orders received from the W.O. for the Battalion to be ready to embark in September for India, and for the advance party to sail from Southampton on August 30th.

August 10th. Lieuts. A. Ransom, m.c., J. M. Skinner, 2nd Lieuts. J. H. T. C. Butler and R. Jacomb-Hood joined.

August 11th. Orders received for the Battalion to finish embarkation leave as soon as possible.

August 13th. Aldershot Command Horse Show. Lieut. H. C. H. Illingworth, m.c., rode in one event.

August 14th. Remainder of Battalion except those firing Recruits' Course went on three weeks' embarkation leave.

August 15th to 17th. Five different orders *re* embarkation received. All cancelled in a few hours.

August 18th. Recruits went off on three weeks' leave. Quartermaster, Adjutant, and one officer and about 60 men who were not going to India left at Aldershot. Sailing of the advance party altered to the middle of September.

August 20th. Sailing of the advance party altered to August 31st.

August 21st. Sailing of the advance party altered to September 4th.

August 25th. Lieut. R. Madeley off strength on posting for Home Service. Lieut. C. Hopkinson off strength on resigning his commission. Major E. B. Denison joined the Battalion and assumed command.

August 26th. A Company and half of C Company returned from leave.

August 27th. Major M. L. S. Clements posted to Battalion and granted two months' leave.

August 28th. Sailing of advance party altered to September 7th.

August 31st. From this date very little training was done, as everyone was fully occupied with drawing stores, fitting clothes and equipment, and many other fatigues. The married families to go to India were selected, and there was every likelihood that the Battalion would sail in September. Strength: 19 officers; 977 other ranks.

September 5th. Preliminary instructions issued for baggage arrangements for move to India.

September 8th. Commenced handing in steel helmets, S.B.R.'s, and other equipment.

September 15th. Advance party, under Captain Oxley (20 other ranks), proceeded to Liverpool, and embarked on S.S. *Teucer* for India.

September 17th. All the rifles of the Battalion were exchanged for new ones.

September 22nd. Warning order received that Battalion would embark on S.S. *Medic* from Liverpool early in October. Married families would not accompany Battalion but would follow later.

September 24th. Battalion paraded on Queen's Parade for inspection by the Colonel Commandant, Lieut.-General Sir W. Pitcairn Campbell, K.C.B. After inspection the Battalion marched past in column and close column of Companies. The Colonel Commandant then addressed the Battalion and wished them good luck.

September 24th. Lieut. A. Wright joined.

September 26th. A Boxing Demonstration was given by the A.G.S. in the Gymnasium, and was attended by the whole Battalion.

September 29th. The Battalion was ordered to hold itself in readiness for strike duty. All preparations were made,

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and one officer and 15 other ranks went away as railway volunteers.

September 30th. Strength of Battalion: 19 officers; 1081 other ranks.

October 2nd. Orders received to embark on S.S. *Medic* 21st instant.

October 3rd. Very successful Novices Boxing Tournament held. Lieut. J. H. T. C. Butler off strength to Rifle Depot.

October 4th. 2nd Lieut. G. E. R. C. Osborne joined Battalion. Opening Meet of the Aldershot Beagles. Most of the officers went out.

October 7th. Lieut. G. K. Wells and Sergts. Rogers and Brooks were selected to bring out the married families.

October 8th. £144. 4s. subscribed by the Battalion sent to the Regimental War Memorial Fund.

October 10th. Lieut. B. V. Cherry, m.c., joined from Rifle Depot. Major C. H. N. Seymour, d.s.o., joined Battalion and assumed command.

October 12th. Major M. L. S. Clements and Captain and Brevet Major H. O. Curtis joined.

October 13th. Brevet Lieut.-Colonel G. A. P. Rennie, c.m.g., d.s.o., joined and assumed command.

October 14th. Orders received to post all personnel not going to India to the 2nd Battalion.

October 16th. 2nd Lieut. O. St. G. P. Nugent joined.

October 17th. All baggage sent off by train in sealed trucks to Liverpool.

October 18th. Major-General Stuart Wortley came down to say good-bye to the Battalion.

October 19th. Baggage party: Major H. O. Curtis, 8 officers, and 104 other ranks. D Company proceeded to Liverpool across London.

October 21st. The Battalion entrained at North Camp in two trains. First, 04.15 hours, second, 05.10 hours, and reached Liverpool Docks at 12.00 hours and 13.30 hours, and immediately embarked on the S.S. *Medic* (White Star), together with the 2nd South Wales Borderers and three batteries R.F.A. The men were very crowded but the food good. The ship was dirty and all over wet paint. We left the docks at 15.30 hours to the strains of several bands. Lieut. Wright and 2nd Lieut. Nugent sailed to-day from Dover, going overland to Marseilles, as there was no room on the *Medic*. Lieut. G. K. Wells and 9 other ranks stayed behind with the married families. Captain G. S. Oxley and 20 other ranks were already in India with the advance party. Embarkation strength: 17 officers; 900 other ranks.

Total strength: 21 officers; 939 other ranks. Major E. B. Denison, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut. A. Ransom, M.C., 2nd Lieut. A. F. G. House, M.C., and 125 other ranks struck off strength, being ineligible for India for various reasons.

October 24th and 25th. Bay of Biscay. Rather choppy.

October 26th. Passed Gibraltar.

October 29th. Passed Pantelaria.

October 31st. Strength: 21 officers; 939 other ranks.

November 1st. Ship's Open Boxing Tournament. The Battalion was well represented and won a good many fights.

November 2nd. Reached Port Said about 08.00 hours, and anchored off the entrance to the Suez Canal. Officers were allowed ashore for three hours. A few letters arrived. Weighed anchor and entered the Canal at 15.30 hours.

November 3rd. Anchored at Port Suez at 07.30 hours, for about an hour.

November 6th. Received wireless message from Aden to say the Battalion was going to Belgaum. This was not believed, as the 4th Rifle Brigade had been told they were going there. It was the first news, however, of a Station; up to this date there had only been rumours. A wireless message to the 4th R.B., who were two days ahead of us confirmed the news, however, as they had been ordered to Karachi for Quetta.

November 18th. The S.S. *Medic* arrived at Bombay at 19.00 hours, after a very calm and uneventful voyage. On arrival we were ordered to unload and entrain as soon as possible. Although great difficulties were caused by the darkness and by several different units unloading at once, the Companies worked so hard that all the baggage was in the trains by 1 a.m., except one truck load that was brought on by the rear party. The first train left for Poona about 23.00 hours, and the other two hours later.

November 14th. The two trains had breakfast at Poona on arrival about 08.00 and 10.00 hours, and then transferred to four metre-gauge trains on the Southern Mahratta Line. All day was spent in the train, with occasional halts for meals.

November 15th.—The first train arrived at Belgaum at 04.30 hours, and after a light meal at the station marched to barracks. The other three trains followed at intervals of about an hour. The Depot of 110th Mahrattas, under Major Branson, very kindly volunteered to unload all the baggage, which was finished by noon. The barracks were still occupied by part of 7th Reserve Battalion and were rather dilapidated. However, in a few weeks most of the defects had been remedied. The advance party who had been in Belgaum about a week had worked very

hard and had made excellent arrangements in every way. The next week was spent in cleaning up and settling down, and then training was started for four hours daily and consisted of musketry and individual training. The Battalion was ordered to fire Part III of Table "B" as soon as possible. Hockey and football were soon in full swing, though there is a great shortage of grounds and no place to make any more as the country is too broken. The only other British unit in the Station is the 94th Battery R.F.A. There are also some Mahratta Depots, and the following units are expected early in the new year:—105th Mahratta L.I., 117th Mahrattas, 2nd Battalion 11th Rajputs.

November 29th. The G.O.C. Southern Army, Lieut.-General Sir W. R. Marshall, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I. (who had commanded the 27th Division in Macedonia), inspected the Station on parade at 07.45 hours. The troops afterwards marched passed in column of route and the General then inspected barracks. Strength: 21 officers; 939 other ranks.

December 13th. A general holiday for Peace Celebrations. The preliminary ties of Six-a-side Platoon Hockey and Football matches were played off.

December 14th. Heats of sports for the 15th were run off.

December 15th. Peace Holiday. In the morning the remaining heats of the sports were run off, and in the afternoon the finals took place. There were a large number of entries, and the sports were most successful. The officers of the Battalion were "At Home" to the Station.

December 16th. Peace Holiday. Semi-finals of the Platoon Competitions played off.

December 17th. Finals of the Platoon Competition. No. 1 Platoon beat No. 16 at football and No. 4 at hockey, thus winning the "double event."

December 20th. Lieut. G. K. Wells, Serpts. Brooks and Rogers, and twenty-four wives and eighteen children arrived in the Station *ex* S.S. *Melita* to Bombay.

December 23rd. The Mead Club, built for the garrison during the War, was opened by the Commissioner, and most of the Battalion attended. A conjuring entertainment and supper followed the opening ceremony.

December 25th. Christmas Day. Special dinner. Menu attached.

December 30th. Brevet Lieut.-Colonel G. A. P. Rennie, C.M.G., D.S.O., to be Lieut.-Colonel December 7th, 1919 (L.G.).

December 31st. Strength: 21 officers, and 939 other ranks.

BATTALION RECORDS.

11th BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

In January, 1919, the Battalion was billeted at Raincheval, a village some five miles south-east of Doullens, and was mainly employed on fatigues and such work as helping the French farmers, filling in trenches, salvage of material, and collecting fuel. Little training was carried out. The weather was cold and inclement.

Major M. S. Ormrod was in command.

The process of demobilization had begun, and a good many officers and other ranks left the Battalion from time to time for demobilization. Drafts also had to be sent from the Battalion to Battalions in the Army of Occupation in Germany, so that the strength of the Battalion was gradually dwindling away, and by the end of February the ration strength was only seventeen officers and 117 other ranks.

During February the Battalion moved from the billets in Raincheval to some hutments near by.

On March 11th what few remained in the Battalion moved to Amplier (near Doullens).

During March the 20th Division (to which we belonged) ceased to exist, and the Battalion came under 61st Brigade Headquarters.

During April Lieut.-Colonel E. B. Denison, D.S.O., M.C., was in command, and by the end of April the strength had sunk to only two officers and thirty-two other ranks, a mere cadre. On May 26th the cadre entrained at Mondicourt to proceed to England, *via* Le Havre and Devonport. We embarked at Le Havre on May 29th, the transport vehicles, etc., on the *Ioanna*, and the personnel of the cadre on the *St. George* for storage of equipment and final disbandment.

EMBARKATION STRENGTH.

Lieut.-Colonel E. B. Denison, D.S.O., M.C.

Captain F. C. Dyer.

Lieut. C. Macgregor.

R/3415 R.-Q.-M.-S. Allwork, B. J.

R/967 C.-Q.-M.-S. Brown, G. S.

R/991 Sergt. Berrisford, A. (Act. Orderly Room Sergt.).

R/4577 Sergt. Searle, J. (Transport Sergt.).

R/819 Sergt. Kennedy, A.

And 26 other ranks. Total, 8 officers and 31 other ranks.

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List of honours and awards gazetted to 11th Battalion in 1919:—

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

Major M. S. Ormrod (*London Gazette*, 27/12/18).

CROIX DE GUERRE.

R/8850 Corpl. W. Butterworth, D.C.M. (*London Gazette*, 28/1/1919).

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL.

R/991 Sergt. Berrisford, A. (*London Gazette*, 18/1/1919).

4365 Corpl. Wilkinson, A. B. (*London Gazette*, 18/1/1919).

MILITARY MEDAL.

A/200252 Corpl. Burrough, R. (*London Gazette*, 11/2/1919).

BATTALION RECORDS.

12th BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

January 1st, 1919, found the 12th Battalion, which formed part of the 20th Division, in billets at the village of Couin, situated some nine miles east of Doullens. The Battalion remained at this village until March 7th, when it moved to Authie Mill (at another village close by). During this time the Battalion was employed on work at filling in trenches and salvage, and a certain amount of training was also carried out. Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Ward, D.S.O., was in command until he proceeded to England for demobilization on March 27th.

There is little more to record about the history of this Battalion; it was gradually depleted by drafts which were sent to the Army of Occupation, and by parties of all ranks being sent home for demobilization. The cadre of the Battalion was finally demobilized during April or May, 1919.

The following is a list of some of the officers who served with the 12th Battalion during part of 1919.

Lieut.-Col. E. F. Ward, D.S.O.
Capt. P. L. Davies, M.C. (attached from D.L.I.).
Lieut. A. J. H. Cope, M.C.
2nd Lieut. C. H. Bradford.
" E. Cooper, V.C. (Medical Officer).
" R. C. Begg.
" R. J. Fryer.
" J. A. Watt.
" G. A. Lawson.
" A. P. Watson.
" D. Ritchie.
" T. H. C. Scott.
Major D. Gardiner, M.C.*
Capt. L. B. Davis, M.C.*
Lieut. G. N. Eeles.*
" E. E. Rice.*
2nd Lieut. F. R. Cleeves.*
" E. C. Watson.*
" F. C. Boyle.*
Lieut. G. E. Appleby.
Major R. H. Huntington, D.S.O.
2nd Lieut. G. D. Long.
" C. F. Baxter.
Capt. C. E. Scott.

* These went to the 25th Battalion during February.

BATTALION RECORDS.

13th BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

January 1st, 1919, found the 13th Battalion billeted at Jumet, in Belgium (about five miles north of Charleroi). The Battalion remained at this place during the whole of January and February, and this period may be passed over very briefly; it is enough to say that routine work and training were carried on, classes and lectures were held, and recreations and amusements went on. The Battalion still formed part of the 37th Division. Owing to demobilizations the strength of the Battalion decreased during these two months from forty officers and 737 other ranks to twenty-seven officers and 401 other ranks: in particular it may be mentioned that the following were detailed to be demobilized towards the end of February, though they did not leave immediately, namely, R.-S.-M. Davies, D.C.M., Sergt. Faulkner, M.M., C.-Q.-M.-S. Dutton, Sergt. Gaskin, M.M., Sergt. Layton, Sergt. Johns, and Sergt. Walton. These were a great loss to the Battalion.

A lot of frost and snow occurred during the end of January and the first half of February.

Major C. G. Johnstone, M.C., assumed command of the Battalion on January 8th, and Captain J. N. Evans-Jackson, M.C., was Second in Command. The former officer remained in command until April 1st, when he handed over to Lieut.-Col. Sir G. A. Armytage, Bart., C.M.G., D.S.O.

It may be mentioned that during January a good many officers and other ranks visited Brussels on short leave for forty-eight hours.

During February it was rumoured that the Battalion was to be sent to Germany to relieve the 1st Battalion in the Army of Occupation, and on February 21st definite orders to this effect were received. Before passing on to the move to Germany, however, the following list of honours and rewards announced during January may be mentioned:—

MILITARY CROSS.

Temp. Lieut. V. W. H. Dixon.

 " A. V. Calwell, R.A.M.C. (attached).

Captain E. N. Dickenson.

2ND BAR TO MILITARY CROSS.**Capt. J. N. Evans-Jackson, M.C.****A.-Capt. T. B. Craig, M.C.****1ST BAR TO MILITARY CROSS.****A.-Capt. E. J. Putman, M.C.****MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL.****R/4606 Sergt. Harlow, H. J.**

The last days of February were spent in preparing for our move to Germany: most of our old transport animals had to be handed over at this time, some to other units, while some were sold or sent to England: we were sorry to lose them; two of our original mules, known as "Nelson" and "Little Jim," however, we were able to keep, and these went with us to Germany.

On March 1st the Battalion, whose strength, however, was only twelve officers and 230 other ranks, left Jumet and entrained at Hautville (Charleroi) for Germany. We thus left the 37th Division: the Divisional Commander and our Brigadier came to see us off at the station; and the following day (March 2nd) we reached Cologne. We did not detrain at Cologne, but went on up a branch line for some miles and detrained at Rommerskirchen, a small station north-west of Cologne;* from thence we marched to billets at Oberaussem, a distance of about six miles in a south or south-westerly direction: the 18th Battalion sent their band to play us part of the way. On arriving in this area the Battalion came into the 99th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Division, in place of the 1st Battalion K.R.R.C.; this organization was soon altered, however, as new units were being made for service in the Army of Occupation in Germany: the 13th Battalion was amalgamated with the 51st Battalion K.R.R.C., the unit thus formed being still called the 13th Battalion K.R.R.C., though the 51st Battalion, which came from England, was the stronger; this alteration took place at the end of March, and Lieut.-Colonel Sir G. A. Armytage took command on April 1st. Other amalgamations of other units also took place, and the newly-formed Division was called the Light Division; our Infantry Brigade, composed of the 13th, 18th, and 20th Battalions K.R.R.C., was re-named the 1st Light Brigade, and was commanded by a Rifleman, Brig.-General G. V. Hordern, C.B., C.M.G., K.R.R.C.

A word may here be said about our environment in Germany. Oberaussem is a small agricultural village with half-a-dozen

* N.B.—Most of the places mentioned in this article, in so far as it applies to the area of occupation on the Rhine, are marked on the map of that area given in this volume.

medium-sized farm houses and cottages. The country is flat. The farms and dwellings are well built and in good repair. A small railway connects the village with the main line at Rommerskirchen, and takes dairy produce down to Cologne. There is a large fuel works outside the village, in which the carboniferous strata are converted into coal briquettes. The countryside is supplied with cheap electric light, which is in all the cottages, and power for electric churns and other purposes. The farmers have plenty of stock and a number of excellent horses. The land is fully cultivated, so that whatever the position is, the towns and villages still have plenty of good food, such as pork, poultry, eggs, butter, and milk. What a contrast all this is with the plight of the country and population of the devastated areas of France and Belgium, destroyed by the enemy during the war.

We had to furnish a night picket to ensure that the inhabitants complied with the regulation requiring civilians to be indoors after 9 p.m. In general the inhabitants showed no inclination to be troublesome, but seemed quite anxious to please.

The Battalion remained at Oberaussem until March 25th, and it was re-equipped with transport, partly by taking over some of the 1st Battalion's transport.

On March 25th the Battalion moved to Dormagen, on the left bank of the Rhine, and about fourteen miles from Oberaussem. Here there was excellent accommodation in buildings, designed to accommodate the workers in a shell factory. It was at Dormagen that the 51st Battalion were amalgamated with the 13th.

Here Major Evans-Jackson, M.C., who had served with the Battalion for practically the whole war, left to be demobilized.

The usual routine of work and recreation now continued. On May 3rd the Battalion was inspected by the G.O.C. Light Division and on May 17th by the G.O.C. Army of the Rhine (Sir W. Robertson).

On May 30th Major F. W. Parish, D.S.O., M.C., joined as Second in Command, and he later assumed command of the Battalion, as Colonel Sir G. Armytage was otherwise employed.

On June 18th special precautions were taken in case the Germans refused to sign Peace; in pursuance of these precautions, C Company moved to Longerich; the Germans did however sign, and on the 27th June the Battalion gave a grand Victory Ball in the Dining Hall.

On July 7th B and C Companies went for a trip to Bonn, and thence on the Brigade river steamboat for a day on the Rhine.

On July 11th the whole Battalion moved from Dormagen to

Solingen, in the defensive area east of the Rhine; this move was carried out by train.

Only two men of the 13th Battalion were drowned bathing in the Rhine during this period. It would be interesting to know exactly how many men of the British Army of Occupation have been accidentally drowned in the Rhine.

Space does not admit of our mentioning in detail all the minor events which took place. The Battalion remained at Solingen during August, September, and October.

On October 14th Major F. W. Parish left for England to join the 4th Battalion, and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel B. J. Curling, D.S.O., assumed command.

On September 25th A Company took over the outpost line from the 9th Battalion the London Regiment at Grafrath.

On November 3rd the Battalion moved from the Solingen area to the Schlebusch area, and on November 5th D Company relieved the 9th Gloucesters at Leverkusen.

The Battalion remained at Schlebusch for the remainder of the year.

BATTALION RECORDS.

16th BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

1919.

The *Chronicle* for last year (1918) related the history of this Battalion up till nearly the end of November, 1918, at which time we had moved back into billets at the village of Clary (some ten miles south-east of Cambrai). We now take up the narrative at the beginning of December, 1918. The Battalion was still at Clary, where the inhabitants had given us a cordial welcome, remembering the part we took in clearing the Germans from that locality. On Wednesday, December 4th, our Colonel-in-Chief, His Majesty King George V, accompanied by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, passed through the Divisional area and stopped for a few moments at Clary, where the Battalion lined the streets.

While at Clary we did a good deal of salvage work. About this time A/Lieut.-Colonel M. L. Clements assumed command of the Battalion, *vice* Lieut.-Colonel C. H. N. Seymour, who left to take up other duties in England.

Orders were now received that the Battalion was to move by march route to the Hornoy area (between Amiens and Dieppe); this involved a march of several days, and route marches were ordered as a preliminary.

At 9 a.m. on Monday, December 9th, 1918, the Battalion started from Clary. We need not mention all the details of the march: on three or four of the days we came in for wet weather and muddy, unpleasant camps, which we had to make the best of. The line of route followed was *via* Masnières (four miles south of Cambrai), where we halted for the first night, and Marcoing, Havrincourt, Hermies (halt for night 10th-11th), Beaumetz, Favreuil (one mile north of Bapaume) halt for night 11th-12th, Bapaume, Albert (camp for night 12th-18th). We marched through Amiens on Saturday, December 14th, and billeted that night at Breilly, a place where many of those still serving in the Battalion had passed a happy time in the summer of 1917: the Companies re-occupied their old billets. We proceeded on our westward march next day, and on the 16th December we reached Andainville. The Battalion had marched

very well, and few men had fallen out: C Company got through the whole seven days' march without a single man falling out.

At Andainville for the first few days the troops occupied themselves with making their billets comfortable and weather-proof, and when this was done the Battalion soon settled down to ordinary routine, training being resumed under Company arrangements, great attention being paid to sport. Orders were received that the Battalion would leave Andainville and proceed to Martin Eglise, near Dieppe, causing a great deal of anxiety as to whether they could hold their Christmas festivities before the move. Everyone was relieved to know that the Battalion was remaining at Andainville until January 3rd, 1919. Preparations for Christmas then became the order of the day, and quantities of good things were ordered.

The feeling between the inhabitants and the troops was very good, and at a Service in the Roman Catholic Church the Band played, all the officers and a large proportion of the men being present, and a donation was given by the Battalion to the Church.

A Sergeants' Mess was established for the first time since the Armistice and by good management was very soon in running order. A Reading Room was organised by the Education officer in the Curé's house, and a number of useful and interesting books were obtained; as much as possible being done to make this place comfortable.

It was arranged that the festivities should take the form of Dinners to the Companies in turn, as there was no place large enough for the whole Battalion to sit down together. There was a big cellar at Headquarters, dry, and in good condition, capable of holding approximately 200 men and this was decorated with flags and evergreens in a very artistic manner, under the direction of the R.-S.-M., who succeeded in making it really beautiful. On Christmas Eve the Band played carols and there was a general good feeling throughout the Battalion, whilst on Christmas Day the Dinners started, Companies drawing lots for precedence. During the morning the customary match between the officers and sergeants was played, and on this occasion it was enjoyed as much as ever.

On New Year's Day, 1919, the Battalion entertained the children of the village to tea in the cellar, and a very good meal was provided and all enjoyed themselves.

On January 2nd an advanced party was sent on to Martin Eglise, near Dieppe, and on the 3rd the Battalion left Andainville and marched to Villers, in the Foucarmont area: the following day we marched to Wanchy, and the next day (Sunday, January 5th) reached Martin Eglise. Here a Demobilization Camp

was being formed, and the Battalion was employed at work in helping to prepare it, and afterwards running it. We had to do a good deal of hard work, as thousands of men were passing through the Demobilization Camp. We also began to lose numbers of our own men, who left us to be demobilized, and it will be understood that the Battalion gradually ceased to be a Battalion organised for service in the field, and at this time it became very weak, though it was afterwards made up again. Major (A/Lieut.-Colonel) M. L. S. Clements was in command until April 22nd, and Major A. L. Y. Willis was Second in Command during most of this time, and Major P. A. W. Laye during a part of it. Captain G. Bottoms, m.c., was Adjutant, and Lieut. and Quartermaster J. Allen was Quartermaster.

The Battalion remained at Martin Eglise until March 7th, and on that date entrained for Le Havre, where they arrived next morning, and took over No. 1 Reception Camp and other camps at Sanvic Le Havre. Here the cadre was employed on demobilization work during the rest of March, and also during April, May, and most of June. On April 22nd A/Lieut.-Colonel M. L. Clements left for other employment, and Major A. L. Y. Willis assumed command and was promoted A/Lieut.-Colonel. On May 1st Captain Bottoms, m.c., left. On June 25th the cadre moved to Harfleur Valley, which was not so conveniently situated as Sanvic. The usual round of work, education, amusements, and recreation went on.

On July 2nd a holiday was observed to celebrate the signing of Peace, and on Saturday, 5th, a Brigade Parade and Thanksgiving Service was held. Later on a few representatives of the Battalion were allowed to go to Paris on July 18th to see the Peace Celebration there next day. The Battalion was represented in the Peace Celebrations at Havre on July 14th by a composite company, under the command of Captain S. A. Smith, m.c.

On July 30th the Divisional Commander, General F. J. Duncan, c.B., c.M.G., D.S.O., inspected the Battalion. In the morning there was a Ceremonial Parade, after which he addressed the troops, and in a straightforward talk to the men announced that the Battalion, out of all the troops in France and Flanders, had been chosen to represent the British Army in the Allied Force who were to go to Schleswig Holstein to control the plebiscite there. He mentioned his affection for the Rifle Regiments, and said that the Battalion was worthy of the wonderful traditions of The King's Royal Rifle Corps and of the new honour of being chosen for the force for Schleswig Holstein. The General lunched with the officers, and in the afternoon inspected the transport, camp, accounts and interior economy. He expressed

his satisfaction with all branches in an excellent report, which was received the next day. For the Special Mission in Schleswig Holstein, which was to have lasted three months, it was necessary that everyone should be a volunteer, and with only one or two exceptions the whole Battalion offered their services.

On Tuesday, August 12th, 17 officers and 500 other ranks who had volunteered for Schleswig Holstein went to England on a fortnight's special leave: it was a cheery sight to see the whole Battalion thus assembled at an English railway station. This party returned on August 27th, arriving at Havre in pouring rain on August 28th. Everyone was now looking forward to the trip to Schleswig Holstein, and on September 1st a warning order to be prepared to move was received. However, this move was not destined to take place. On or about September 15th a new order was received, that all "Derby" men who volunteered could reconsider their decision, and many who had grown tired of waiting took this opportunity and were demobilized, and this very soon left the Battalion in a depleted condition. Some drafts joined us from other units, and the ordinary base depot life went on until October 25th, when definite orders were received that the Schleswig Holstein move was cancelled and that the Battalion would be demobilized at once, with the exception of an equipment guard. Tuesday, October 28th, was celebrated as a farewell day. A Dinner was arranged for the men, followed by a Concert. After this, demobilization went on at the rate of 200 per day. On Wednesday, 29th, the sergeants of the Battalion held a farewell Dinner, at which the Commanding Officer and other officers attended, and some appropriate speeches were made.

This ends the record of the Battalion, which shortly afterwards ceased to exist as such.

BATTALION RECORDS.

17th BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

1919.

At the beginning of January, 1919, the 17th Battalion was quartered in detachments in and near Abbeville. Lieut.-Colonel A. P. H. Le Prevost, D.S.O., was in command.

During January the process of demobilization began. On the 16th, in accordance with orders received, B Company (Captain A. G. Hosking) was demobilized and 215 young soldiers were sent off to join other units. On January 25th the Quartermaster, Captain A. C. Summerfield, M.C., left for England on demobilization. On January 30th D Company (Captain J. I. Hindley) was demobilized and dispersed.

On February 4th the remaining two Companies, namely, A Company (Captain H. D. Leppan, M.C.) and C Company (Captain V. F. Turner) were broken up, and Captains Leppan, Turner and Hindley left for England on demobilization. The Battalion had now become merely a cadre, and on the 22nd February the cadre, strength 4 officers and 47 other ranks, with a small amount of transport, entrained for Le Havre, where they arrived at midnight and proceeded to No. 2 Rest Camp. A few details had been left at Abbeville.

The cadre at Le Havre came under the orders of 197th Infantry Brigade Headquarters for administrative purposes.

During March the cadre was accommodated in the Canadian Embarkation Camp, and was performing the duties of No. 2 Rest Camp.

During April and May the cadre remained at Le Havre, being quartered in Old Fort Hutments. Afterwards the cadre was demobilized and returned to England.

BATTALION RECORDS.

18th BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

1919.

New Year found the Battalion, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Sir J. V. E. Lees, D.S.O., at Villers-Le-Bouillet (near Huy), Belgium, where we had halted for two or three weeks over the holiday season. On January 15th the Battalion entrained for Germany, and our first resting-place was Hoffnungsthal—a delightful little village east of the Rhine, about twelve miles from Cologne. We were reserve Battalion to the 122nd Brigade, which was in the outpost line, where we went later on. Towards the end of February the Battalion left the 41st Division to join the 2nd Division, becoming members of the 99th Brigade (under Brig.-General McNamara) and stationed at Niederaussem.

All this time our numbers had been steadily depleted by demobilization, but, in early March, an excellent draft of about 10 officers and 100 men arrived from the 4th Battalion K.R.R.C.

The Battalion moved to Worringen in early April, becoming part of the 1st Brigade of the Light Division. The 52nd Battalion K.R.R.C. amalgamated with us on April 11th, and Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Vernon, D.S.O., took command. The strength of the Battalion at this time was about 1600.

In June, in consequence of the signing of Peace difficulties, the Battalion was moved into the Cologne district, being stationed at Mulheim and Marienburg. On the signing of Peace the Battalion returned to Worringen, but about July 10th moved to Solingen, where we acted as Outpost Battalion to the Brigade, which for the first time was concentrated in the same place.

Towards the end of August Lieut.-Colonel Vernon was recalled to England, and the command was taken over by Lieut.-Colonel J. B. Brady, D.S.O. In the latter half of October the Battalion moved to Ohligs, receiving from the 6th Battalion City of London Rifles a fine draft of 6 officers and about 100 men, many of whom had served in the 1st Battalion K.R.R.C. during the war.

In November the 1st Light Brigade was transferred into the Independent Division, then under orders to garrison East Prussia and Silesia.

Christmas, 1919, found the Battalion, some 750 strong, still in billets in Ohligs, and was celebrated with all the customary time-honoured festivities. The Divisional Commander, General Sir William Henneker, visited the Battalion on Christmas Eve, and warmly congratulated all ranks on the originality and good taste with which billets had been decorated, and the tuneful and whole-hearted singing of Christmas Carols by Companies.

During the year the Battalion War Savings Association did really good work, some £5000 being invested in War Savings Certificates.

The call for support for the Regimental War Memorial Fund received a ready response, and a sum of £202 was collected in voluntary subscriptions from all ranks.

In spite of the inherent difficulties attendant on the attempt to carry out an ambitious and far-reaching scheme of General Education *pari passu* with Military Training, progress has been made: the results of the Examinations for Army Certificates were creditable in view of the grave shortage of trained teaching personnel, and the demands of the military situation, which seriously militated against effective class organisation and instruction.

Organised games played a big part in the life of the Battalion throughout the year. The Battalion Athletic Team had the honour of representing the Light Brigade in the Divisional Competitions. In the Inter-Company Football the competition was always keen, and the play at times reached a high standard.

No history of the Battalion for the year 1919 would be complete without an acknowledgment of what all ranks owe to Brig.-General G. V. Hordern, who commanded the 1st Light Brigade from April to the end of October. Whatever of good the Battalion may claim to have done in the Army of the Rhine is primarily due to the encouragement, sympathy, and ready help with which he heartened us in times of difficulty and stress—to the fine quality of service and soldierly conduct which he justly demanded, and to the spirit with which he inspired all ranks to live up to the Rifleman's Rule: "ONLY THE BEST IS GOOD ENOUGH."

BATTALION RECORDS.

20th BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

1919.

The Battalion was stationed at Duren (Germany), under the command of Lieut.-Colonel C. R. Martin, D.S.O. .

No pioneer work was being carried out at this time, so great stress was laid upon training the men as Riflemen, as no opportunity had been afforded them since the advance into Germany.

The men of the Battalion consisted chiefly of expert colliers, carpenters, bricklayers, etc., with the result that it soon became evident that the majority would be demobilized with the first batches of men to be sent. And about the beginning of the month this started, and the Battalion gradually decreased in strength until, by March, there were only some 450 men remaining.

Orders were received in March that the 53rd Young Soldiers' Battalion of the Regiment, which had just left England, would be absorbed into this Battalion.

On April 1st Brig.-General F. G. Willan, C.M.G., D.S.O., assumed Command of the Battalion.

On April 6th the Battalion moved to Zons, a picturesque village on the banks of the Rhine. Unfortunately, Zons could not contain the whole Battalion, and Companies had to be sent to the neighbouring villages. The Battalion was transferred to the 1st Light Brigade, in the Light Division.

On April 8th the 53rd Young Soldiers' Battalion K.R.R.C. arrived, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel J. B. Brady, D.S.O.

Orders were now issued that the 20th Battalion K.R.R.C. should lose its identity as a Pioneer Battalion, and become a Service Battalion, which meant that a fourth Company had to be formed. The Battalion owes much to Lieut.-Colonel F. G. Willan, C.M.G., D.S.O., who worked unceasingly and effected this change, transforming a Pioneer Battalion of three Companies and a Young Soldiers' Battalion of four Companies into one Battalion, known as the 20th Service Fighting Battalion of the Regiment.

Lieut.-Colonel J. B. Brady, D.S.O., was appointed to command the 6th Battalion London Regiment, and Lieut.-Colonel C. R. Martin was appointed Commandant of the Science College at Bonn.

The Battalion trained hard throughout the summer months, and the behaviour of the men toward the civil population was excellent.

About June trouble was expected from the Germans, who were not complying with certain terms of the Armistice of 1918, and it is a credit to the men to state that they were only too anxious to shew their worth and the results of their strenuous training, if necessary, by force of arms. But, however, this was not to be, and the situation reverted to normal conditions.

In July the Battalion was moved across the Rhine and took over the outpost line in front of Solingen.

On July 7th four Riflemen were sent to Paris to take part in the Allied Peace March.

On July 19th Peace was signed, and a few days later a General Holiday was given to the men in celebration. Solingen was rumoured to be extremely Bolshevistic, and it was stated that the Germans would try to coerce the Riflemen into their way of thinking. However, the moral of the Battalion was not to be affected.

In September trouble was again expected from the Germans, and the Battalion was under orders to proceed to occupy Elberfeld in an unoccupied area. The men were once more disappointed, for the day before this move should have taken place the Germans climbed down and the operation was cancelled. Later, the Rhine Army Rifle Meeting was held, in which the Battalion excelled itself, and came home with more Cups and Prizes than any other Battalion in the whole Rhine Army.

Lieut.-Colonel F. G. Willan, C.M.G., D.S.O., was appointed as an Instructor at Woking, and left the Battalion, who thereby lost a great officer and one who worked incessantly for the good of all ranks and was responsible for the high standard of efficiency and *esprit de corps* which existed.

Lieut.-Colonel W. C. Smith, D.S.O., M.C., then assumed command of the Battalion. This officer had been Second in Command since May, and maintained the high standard, until he was superseded by the arrival of Lieut.-Colonel G. C. Kelly, D.S.O., who took over command at the end of October.

In November the Battalion were under orders to proceed to the plebiscite area, and, preparatory to this move, were relieved from the outpost line at Solingen and transferred to the Independent Division at Opladen, where they spent the time equipping themselves for this move. The Battalion was to move to Allenstein, in East Prussia, but on account of the Peace still not being ratified, remained there until the end of the year.

Although still under orders to proceed to East Prussia, it was not expected that this would take place.

In December Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Howard, D.S.O., took over command of the Battalion, as Lieut.-Colonel G. C. Kelly proceeded home to the Staff College.

The state of officers at the end of the year was as follows:—

Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Howard, D.S.O.	Commanding Officer.
Major W. C. Smith, D.S.O., M.C.	Second in Command.
Capt. W. P. Bristowe	O.C. C Company.
„ A. E. Stokes	Adjutant.
„ A. E. Tuck	Quartermaster.
A.-Capt. L. Myers	Educational Officer.
„ L. K. Spencer, M.C.	Hospital.
Lieut. T. H. Jenkin	O.C. B Company.
„ A. L. Gracie, M.C.	Signal Officer.
„ R. Johnston	Transport Officer.
„ L. S. Dagg	O.C. A Company
„ F. H. Flood	
„ L. H. Mackie	O.C. H.Q. Company.
„ E. G. W. Fookes	
„ H. V. Slingsby	
„ W. H. Ormiston, M.C.	
„ H. C. Gardener	
„ R. R. Mitchell	O.C. D Company.
„ B. T. Crowe	Asst. Adjutant.
„ R. H. M. Lea	Civil Rep. Officer.
„ J. A. McLean	
„ R. K. Hamilton	Messing Officer.
„ E. H. V. Burgess	Sports Officer.
„ R. B. Kirtland	
„ L. W. A. Cross	
„ S. Mackey	
2nd Lieut. I. H. Jones-Parry	
„ W. Butler	
„ T. O. S. White	
„ E. G. Ashford	
„ H. J. Simpson	
„ S. F. Dean	
„ A. H. Read	
„ A. F. Crisp	
„ W. H. Royston	Educational Officer.
„ E. H. Skinner	„
„ V. A. A. Taylor	„
Capt. W. P. Nelson, M.C.	Medical Officer.
„ J. Thom, M.C.	Chaplain (C.E.).
„ R. H. Wooldridge	„ (R.C.).

BATTALION RECORDS.

25th (PIONEER) BATTALION THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

1918.

As the 25th Battalion was only formed during the course of the year 1918, its record did not appear at all in the *Chronicle* for that year, and we must therefore record its whole history, from its formation to its demobilization, in this year's *Chronicle*.

The Battalion was formed at Saulty, a village some twelve miles south-west of Arras, on the 19th April, 1918. It was composed of drafts from several G.G. Corps. The Battalion was at first known as the *2nd Provisional Garrison Guard Battalion*, and was attached to the 199th Infantry Brigade. At first Captain L. Ashling, M.C., was in temporary command, with Captain A. Regan, Middlesex Regiment, as Adjutant. On April 23rd Lieut.-Colonel J. G. Kirkwood, C.M.G., D.S.O., took over command, and he remained with the Battalion until its demobilization.

On May 20th the Battalion moved to Verdrel (a place some ten miles west of Lens and about the same distance south of Bethune); here it was attached to the 59th Division, and was re-named the 25th Garrison Battalion K.R.R.C., an honour which was greatly appreciated, and which was worthily maintained. During its time at Verdrel the Battalion was employed at working on the reserve line, and sometimes at training.

On June 16th, 1918, the Battalion left Verdrel on the march for the Vincly training area: at Bois des Reitz on 16th it came in for an air-raid during the night: casualties one Rifleman killed and one wounded. Next day the Battalion marched to Pressy and Palfart, and it was announced that the official name of the Battalion, to date from June 1st, 1918, would be *25th Pioneer Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps*.

On June 19th, 1918, the Battalion reached the Vincly training area [Vincly about fifteen miles north-west of St. Pol and a similar distance south by west from St. Omer]: here it was reorganised as an infantry unit of three Companies: the strength was 29 officers and 986 other ranks. The Battalion remained

here training until July 10th, 1918, when it marched to Fiefs and was attached to 178th Infantry Brigade. On July 25th a ride in motor lorries to Ficheux (some four miles south of Arras) proved a welcome change to the usual route march. One Company was in huts at Wailly (about three miles south by west from Arras), and the other two Companies, with Battalion Headquarters, were doing useful work in second line trenches south of Monchy le Preux and the Arras-Cambrai Road.

On August 23rd, 1918, the Battalion was relieved, and marched back to Saulty to bivouac the night, and during the course of the next few days marched to St. Venant, where the 59th Division relieved the 78rd. The Battalion was billeted in a convent at St. Venant, and there was plenty of work to do in making new communication trenches, erecting camouflage screens, repairing roads, etc. Here we remained some time.

On October 2nd, 1918, a forward move was made after the retreating enemy—a welcome change from the stagnant trench line. Estaires was reached on October 2nd, and after remaining there four days a further move was made. On the 21st the Battalion was employed making bridges over the Scheldt.

The great day of the Armistice found the Battalion at Ramegnies-Chin, a ruined village on the Scheldt, a few miles north-west of Tournai. Here an exciting incident occurred. At five minutes before the Armistice hour, 11.00 a.m., a shell fell in the garden of the orderly room—happily a dud, but it caused some excitement to the occupants, especially to the T.O., whose retiring salute to the Adjutant was rudely interrupted by the unwelcome arrival.

The day after the Armistice the Battalion moved by march route through Tournai to Barry-Maulde, on the Tournai-Ath Road, and was employed there with the 5th Canadian troops in filling up craters and removing broken rails.

On November 18th the Battalion left Barry and marched by easy stages to Séclin, some few miles south of Lille, and began to do training: the strength was 81 officers and 741 other ranks.

In December the Battalion again changed its address, going on December 7th by motor lorries to Drouvin (a mile or two south of Bethune). It remained there nine days, and then marched to Verdrel (already mentioned above when dealing with the month of May, 1918,) for salvage work in the Vimy-Ablain St. Nazaire area, and there Christmas was spent: a Christmas happy in the knowledge that the war was over at last, and secure in the knowledge that the Christmas dinner could be eaten in peace and quietness.

1919.

Salvage work was afterwards continued, and B Company was sent off on detachment to Ligny St. Flochel (a small place some three miles east of St. Pol on the railway line from St. Pol to Arras), where they were working at making the 11th Corps concentration camp. On the 23rd January, 1919, B Company rejoined the Battalion, and on the 25th the whole entrained at Noeux-les-Mines (south of Bethune) to proceed to Dunkirk.

On arrival at Dunkirk on January 26th the Battalion was attached to lines of communication, and was employed at making demobilization camps. It was camped at Mardyck Camp, west of Dunkirk, a camp that will live long in the memories of the 25th, there being absolutely no accommodation for the incoming troops, the weather being very wintry with heavy falls of snow, and only tents to sleep in. The men were packed rather tightly in the tents, and every tent was also the proud possessor of a stove, which usually emitted more smoke than heat; with the equipment and personal belongings of the men hung around the tent poles the Battalion hardly presented the appearance of a peace-time unit of the 60th Rifles. In spite of all the disadvantages, however, the spirit of the men remained high.

During February a good many of all ranks were sent away to be demobilized, but on the 7th a reinforcement of 10 officers and 300 other ranks was received from the 11th and 12th Battalions, so that at the end of February the strength was still 30 officers and 504 other ranks.

While at Dunkirk the Adjutant, Captain Regan, was evacuated sick; Major Morgan was Second in Command, and Lieut. Crewe Signalling Officer and O.C. Headquarters Company.

On March 10th, 1919, the Battalion moved from Dunkirk to Beaumarais, near Calais, and was there employed on guard duties, escorts to parties of prisoners of war, etc. As drafts were received from other Battalions, the strength did not decrease, on the contrary at the end of March there was a strength of 969 N.C.O.'s and men. The Quartermaster, Lieut. Pelling, left for demobilization about this time: he was a great loss, and was succeeded by Captain Hewins. The Battalion remained at Beaumarais during April, May, June, and July, and was sometimes over 1000 strong.

While here the Battalion maintained its reputation, the men presenting a smart appearance and participating in all the sports in the district. A novel idea to us was also started by Lieut.-Colonel Kirkwood, namely, a Battalion garden—an innovation which proved a great success—the garden was afterwards sold to another unit. The Battalion cross-country team, under

Lieut. Cleaves, also distinguished itself; and the Battalion concert party, under the capable leadership of Lieut. Rice, attracted all the talent of the Battalion; and the name of the "Remnants" soon became well known in the Calais area.

During July a good many demobilizations took place, and the strength began to go down. During August Battalion Headquarters and one Company moved to Audruicq, where it remained until the end of September, by which date the Battalion strength had gone down to 25 officers and 181 other ranks, many having been demobilized, and drafts having been sent to reinforce the 16th Battalion K.R.R.C. at Havre.

Towards the end of August orders were received to reduce the Battalion to cadre strength, and gradually it began to break up—a fact not untinged with sadness to one who had seen it grow, and had been with it throughout its stormy but brief career. Finally, the only representatives of the Battalion left were the Quartermaster (Captain Hewins) and 11 other ranks, who proceeded to Beaumarais with the equipment guard on November 8th, 1919, thus finally closing the history of the 25th Battalion K.R.R.C., after a career, short, but truly in keeping with those of older and more experienced Battalions of the 60th.

FULL CIRCLE.

MARCH 21st, 1919.

WITH ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO *The Times*.

Generations may come and go, States and kingdoms may rise and fall, institutions may mould society into fresh forms, and the minds of men may be inspired and directed by feelings and thoughts scarcely conceived to-day; but, whatever be the harmonies or the discords the growing ages may bring forth, this day remains a famous anniversary for ever; for upon it, a year ago, began the last act of the most tremendous drama ever played and witnessed by mankind. March 21st, 1918, saw Germany open the campaign which was to work her overthrow. She was playing her last stake and her leaders knew it, but she entered upon the venture confident that it would leave her mistress of the Continent, with her victorious sword at the throat of England and an imminent menace to the English-speaking peoples of the world. She seemed to be at the height of her gigantic power. She had freed herself from "the war upon two fronts," which was the only war she dreaded. She had not only defeated the great enemy on the East whom she had feared and courted for generations, but she had procured for a time the utter dissolution of the Russian nation. It was stricken past hope, and she could with safety transfer to the West the troops she had employed against it. For over three years with Russia unsubdued she had held her lines against all the efforts of England and France. Now, she declared, she would issue from these impenetrable defences, and by a new and perfected system of warfare destroy her enemies before America could aid them. She affected contempt for the untrained troops who might escape the U-boats and cross the Atlantic, but her chiefs knew that she must strike before the Americans entered the field in any strength. They believed they had time, and having once more flattered and heartened their people with the expectation of a "German" peace imposed upon the world, they launched their attack. The course and incidents of that terrific contest are in the memory of us all. The greatness of the issues and the changes of fortune as it developed gave it an interest unsurpassed since the fate of civilization hung upon the days of Marathon and of Salamis. Once again it hung not less completely upon the dauntless resolve of its defenders. Once again, for a space, their cause stood in

the deadliest peril. Never had defeat been nearer than in those last days of March when, mile after mile, the enemy pressed us back from all that we had won, and had advanced farther than he had come since the Battle of the Marne. He was at the gates of Amiens; in six days he had taken 70,000 men. And the danger seemed to grow when the fall of Mount Kemmel, following the fall of Neuve Chapelle and of Neuve Eglise, almost opened for Germany the path to the Channel ports. How great it was is recorded in Sir Douglas Haig's historic general order of April 11th. He told his men plainly that there was "no other course open to them but to fight it out"; that they must hold to the last man, and that "the safety of their homes and the freedom of mankind" depended on their conduct "at this critical moment."

The crisis passed, the advance was stayed; for a month there was a lull, and when Hindenburg struck again on the Chemin des Dames the measures had been taken which brought about his defeat. The Associated Powers rose splendidly to the danger. Within a fortnight after the earliest German successes we had hurried nearly 250,000 men to France, and within a fortnight more we had replaced all our lost guns. We had appealed to America, and our appeal was not in vain. We asked her for 120,000 men a month, and her President's answer was, "Send the ships and we will send the men." On April 14th the long-debated unity of command was made a reality, and the great French soldier who was to lead them to victory took command of all the Associated Armies. The worst was past, yet to all but skilled eyes the peril seemed rather to increase than to abate. The loss of Soissons, the advance of the Germans between the Oise and the Marne, which brought them to within forty miles of Paris, and the vigorous attacks on both sides of Reims appeared to justify their boasts of the brilliant results achieved by the silent work of their experienced specialists during months and at the highest nervous pressure. Foch, they said, with an air of patronage, had reached his post too late. He was to reprove their fatuity. This is not the place to retell the history of the wonderful sweep forward of the Allies, which, beginning on the fateful banks of the Marne, moved onwards without stay until it saw the Americans in Sedan and the British back on the scene of their ever-glorious defeat at Mons over four years before. It was begun by the French on July 18th, and on August 8th our countrymen undertook the tremendous share in the joint task which was allotted to them. A series of great battles—or rather of mighty episodes in one continuous battle—followed. Bapaume, Arras, the breach of the Drocourt—

Quéant line, came in quick succession. When the British and French had closed in sufficiently upon the enemy from the west, the Americans and French proceeded to drive him back on the east. Meanwhile the series of victories on the west was unbroken. They culminated perhaps in the Battle of Cambrai, when, on Michaelmas Day—the feast of the archangel warrior—British and Americans smashed the Hindenburg line and took 10,000 prisoners. On the same day Ludendorff proposed an Armistice. When it was granted some weeks later the Germans had lost 385,500 prisoners and thousands of guns since July.

When Germany set out to deliver her “hammer blows” twelve months ago, her Allies were still unconquered. The Turks had a great force in Palestine and were advancing in Caucasia; the Austrians proposed to repeat the victory they had won at Caporetto in the autumn; Bulgaria was still the strongest State in the Balkans. A dramatist devising the story of Germany's downfall could hardly have imagined with greater art the succession of the blows that smote her confederates. One by one they were crushed before her eyes. Austria met her death-wound from the Italians in June, though she did not sue for peace until October. Bulgaria begged an armistice after a ten days' fight at the end of September. Allenby destroyed the Turkish Army about the same time, and Turkey craved a like favour. By the second week in November, Germany stood alone; her armies, demoralized and broken by continuous defeat, were in imminent danger of overwhelming disaster; the blockade was raising the spectre of famine and the revolutionaries the spectre of anarchy and chaos. Men had long speculated in what spirit she would take defeat. Would it be in the indomitable spirit of Prussia in the Seven Years' War, or in the craven spirit of Prussia after Jena? The answer was unmistakable. Never has any great nation endured defeat with less dignity or less manliness. The Germans have gone to pieces under the stroke of misfortune. Passionate denials that they have been conquered in the field alternate on their lips with abject appeals to the humanity they have outraged, with impotent menaces, with despicable attempts to divide the Allies, with fawning advances now to one of the Associated Powers and now to another. They have overthrown the Empire, but they have not shown the slightest capacity to govern themselves. The vast majority bow to the dictates of a small band of revolutionists as submissively as a year since they cringed before the Kaiser. There, too, as in the fortunes of war, the course of justice has been brought out with the sharpness of a great tragedy. The Germans used Bolshevism as a poisoned weapon against Russia. They paralysed

their victim, but the poison has permeated themselves, and threatens their very life. Within this single year the wheel has come full circle. The great Army in which they trusted is no more; they have delivered their Fleet into British custody; the Allies are in occupation of a great stretch of German soil; and while this people, who aspired twelve months ago to the domination of the universe, are fighting among themselves, the Allies are debating in Paris upon what conditions peace shall be granted to them.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

**For Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned
Officers, and Riflemen, who have fallen in the War.**

July 22nd, 1919.

TRIBUTE AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Of the many memorial services which have recently been held in Westminster Abbey none were more impressive than that held on July 22nd, for officers and Riflemen of The King's Royal Rifles and The Rifle Brigade who have fallen in the war. Although the service was timed for noon, every seat in the building was occupied some forty minutes before, and the Duke of Connaught, Colonel-in-Chief of The Rifle Brigade, Princess Christian (whose son, Prince Christian Victor was an officer of the 60th), and Princess Marie Louise and Princess Beatrice and her two sons—the Marquess of Carisbrooke and Lord Leopold Mountbatten—were members of the Royal family present. The Duke of Connaught was the first of the Royal party to arrive, and with Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, Senior Colonel Commandant of the Regiment (representing the King), inspected a composite guard of honour from the two Regiments, which was drawn up without the west door.

A massed band of the two Regiments was stationed near the entrance from the West Cloister door, but while the congregation was assembling the music was rendered by the organist, the chief items being Chaminade's "Prelude in D Minor," Basil Harwood's "Requiem Aeternam," a Hebrew melody, "Memorial of the Departed," and Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C Sharp Minor."

The service, which was striking in its simplicity, began with the hymn, "The Son of God goes forth to war," and after three short prayers came the anthem, "We bless and thank Thee, Lord." The Bishop of London's address which followed was in the nature of a brief recital of the deeds of the two Regiments since their inception, with special reference to the glorious record of the Rifle Battalions in the late war. He cited three outstanding instances of the spirit of the Regiments, which he referred to in a quotation from the second book of Samuel, "They were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their deaths they were not divided." He also referred sympathetically to Princess

Beatrice's son, Prince Maurice, who was killed in action with his Battalion at Ypres in 1914.

After the hymn, "The Supreme Sacrifice," and more short prayers, the Dean pronounced the Blessing, and the congregation stood while Chopin's Funeral March was played by the massed bands. The Last Post echoed eerily round the building, followed by the cheery sounds of the Reveillé; there was a silent two minutes, and the service ended with the National Anthem.

The following is the numerical statement of those who lost their lives during the war:—

THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

Officers	...	...	...	...	563
Other Ranks	...	...	...	...	12,225

THE RIFLE BRIGADE.

Officers	...	...	...	...	546
Other Ranks	...	...	...	...	11,075

THE REGIMENTAL DINNER.

After a lapse of four years, the Regimental Dinner took place at the Café Royal on June 6th.

It was a great gathering of Riflemen, and many officers had not met since the last Regimental Dinner in 1914, and much had happened since those days. Over 150 officers sat down to dinner in a rather overheated atmosphere, and this occasion was noteworthy for the fact that it was the first time that officers not serving on the Regular establishment were admitted to the Dinner and a cordial welcome was extended to many temporary officers, who had fought so gallantly and had now severed their active connection with the Regiment.

Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell took the Chair and the other Colonels Commandant were present, with the exception of Major-General Fetherstonhaugh, who was prevented by serious illness.

At the close of the Dinner Lord Grenfell proposed the health of His Majesty The King, which was drunk with the usual honours, followed by the toast of Her Majesty the Queen and the other members of the Royal Family.

The Field-Marshal made a graceful reference to the interest His Majesty always took in the welfare of the Regiment, and then particularly alluded to the sympathy shown by T.R.H. Princess Christian and Princess Beatrice in all that affected the 60th Rifles, but especially during the war, in connection with the Ladies' Guild and the Prisoners of War Committee.

The deep sympathy of the Regiment was especially due to Princess Beatrice, whose gallant son, Prince Maurice, had laid down his life leading his platoon on October 27th, 1914.

Lord Grenfell then proceeded to enumerate the Senior Officers of the Regiment, who had so greatly distinguished themselves during the war, both at Home and Overseas, and concluded with a touching reference to those gallant officers who had laid down their lives, and although absent in person were present in our thoughts.

General Sir Henry Rawlinson then responded to the toast of Past Officers of the Regiment and said how much he owed his present success to his early training in the 4th Battalion, and concluded his remarks with an appreciation of the gallant fight put up by the 2nd Battalion on July 10th, 1917, at Nieuport les Bains, when he was in Command of the Army on that front, and having explained the situation, offered a tribute to their

memory which sent a thrill of pride through the hearts of all present.

Lieut.-General Sir Edward Hutton then rose to respond to the Past Officers of the Regiment, and made an eloquent reference to the memory of the gallant dead: and enumerated the names of the various Commanding Officers who had fallen, whilst leading their Battalions on the field of battle.

Lieut.-General Sir W. Pitcairn Campbell then proposed the health of the Temporary Officers, and referred in flattering terms to the manner in which they had added so much lustre to the glory of the Regiment and its grand traditions, and hoped that in future years we should long welcome their presence at the Annual Dinner.

Colonel Warre, the Senior Serving Officer of the Regiment, responded to the toast of the Serving Officers, and said he hoped with such traditions to spur them they would always endeavour to uphold the reputation of the 60th, now in their hands.

The proceedings closed with the toast of the health of Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, which was proposed by Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Kitson, who hoped the gallant Field-Marshal would long survive to attend our Regimental Dinner for many years, the toast being received with the greatest cordiality.

Thus ended a memorable Reunion of Riflemen, whose happiness at meeting many long-lost friends was tinged with sadness at the thought of the vacant chairs of those we loved and shall never see again.

THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS WAR MEMORIAL.

At a General Meeting of past and present officers of the Regiment, held on 7th of June, 1919, with the approval of the Colonel-in-Chief, H.M. The King, under the presidency of Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, it was decided to raise a sum of money for a Memorial to the Riflemen of all ranks who have fallen during the war.

A Committee was appointed to carry out the proposal.

The number of those who have laid down their lives in the twenty-four Battalions of The King's Royal Rifles is over 560 officers and 12,200 other ranks.

The opinion has been very generally expressed that it would have been the wish of those who died, and that it is the wish of the survivors that the Memorial should include some practical benefit to officers and men of the Regiment and to their families, particularly those who have suffered in the war. When it is realised that 1000 officers and 60,000 other ranks became casualties, in addition to the number of killed, and that something like 150,000 men served in the various Battalions, it is felt that all who are connected with the Regiment will welcome the opportunity to lend a hand to those of their comrades who need it.

In addition to the fund which it is proposed to raise for the above purpose, it was unanimously decided that a lasting visible monument, worthy of the Regiment, should be erected, and further that the names of all who died should be permanently recorded. Recognising the desire of many of the relations of the fallen that the Memorial should be associated with a sacred edifice, the precincts of Winchester Cathedral have been selected as the site of the monument, and the roll book will be deposited in the Cathedral itself.

With these objects in view, the Meeting decided that the Memorial should take the following form:—

1. A Trust to be formed for the practical benefit of Officers, N.C.O.s. and Riflemen of the Regiment and their families, with special preference to those who have been

killed or disabled during the war. This Trust to be administered through the machinery of the Rifleman's Aid Society.

2. An illuminated vellum roll book containing the names of all the fallen to be placed in Winchester Cathedral under a window, the glass of which will be provided as part of this Memorial Scheme.

3. A statue in the precincts of Winchester Cathedral. Subject to artistic considerations, this will consist of a bronze figure of a Rifleman in fighting order.

In addition to the above, the Committee are arranging for the erection of three stone monuments on the battlefields abroad in places where the Regiment has specially distinguished itself, and a window in the chapel at Sandhurst to the officers of the Regiment who joined from there and have fallen.

THE CELER ET AUDAX CLUB.

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

(Extract of Proceedings.)

A General Committee Meeting of the Club was held at 71, Eccleston Square, London, S.W., at 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11th, 1919.

PRESENT:

Field-Marshal The Right Hon. Lord Grenfell, P.C., G.C.B.,
G.C.M.G. in the Chair.
Lieut.-General Sir Edward Hutton, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.
Major-General Sir Gerald Kitson, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G.
Major-General R. S. R. Fetherstonhaugh, C.B.
Lieut.-General Sir William Pitcairn Campbell, K.C.B.
Brigadier-General Rudolf Jelf.
Brigadier-General Hugo Watson.
Colonel R. Byron, D.S.O.
Lieut.-Colonel Lewis W. G. Butler.

1.—MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read, confirmed, and signed.

2.—DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1918.

The draft Annual Report of the Committee was read and confirmed for submission to the Annual General Meeting.

3.—ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES.

Regimental Chronicle: The Report and Accounts having been submitted and read by the Editor and Hon. Treasurer (Colonel R. Byron), were approved. Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell thanked Colonel Byron for all the work he had done so successfully in the face of many difficulties, and said how deeply the Committee appreciated his very successful and continuous labours as Editor.

A Resolution was passed and carried unanimously that the financial responsibility of publishing the volumes for 1916, 1917 and 1918 as soon as possible should be boldly faced, and that the

"Celer et Audax" Club would stand behind the *Chronicle* Committee in the arrangements proposed by the Editor and Hon. Treasurer. A Committee was elected.

The Regimental History : There having been no development made during the year, a short Statement was made by Lieut.-Colonel Butler, that the fund was £147. 3s. 11d. in credit.

As Regimental Historian Lieut.-Colonel Butler also stated that his undertaking as regards the "Annals" of the Regiment terminated with the publication in 1918 of Volume I, but that he had prepared and had in hand much of the contents required for Volumes II, III, and IV.

The hope was expressed by Lord Grenfell and the Committee that Lieut.-Colonel Butler would be able to continue the work of writing and editing Volume II, if not the whole undertaking, which he had so ably and so successfully begun.

The Chairman and Committee for 1918 were re-appointed.

The Veterans' Association : The Accounts having been presented by Major-General R. S. R. Fetherstonhaugh, the Committee considered the future of the Association. It was decided that a development might with advantage be made. Upon the conclusion of Peace a great reduction of the Regiment would take place, and it would follow that the discharged Riflemen, who had served together during the war, would welcome an Association which would afford them an opportunity of meeting their old comrades and of retaining a connection with the Regiment. It was suggested that an Annual Fête in London, Birmingham, etc., might be organised. The Committee considered that no time should be lost in dealing with the question, and Lieut.-General Sir William Pitcairn Campbell was requested to act as Chairman of a Committee, consisting of Brig.-Generals Rudolf Jelf and Hugo Watson, with power to add to their number. It was suggested that Lieut.-Colonel Scratchley be invited to act as Hon. Secretary.

4.—ANNUAL DINNER.

It was decided that a Regimental Dinner shall be held during 1919, and that the following small Committee be appointed to decide upon the date and other details :—

Lieut.-General Sir William Pitcairn Campbell, Chairman,	} Members,
Brigadier-General Rudolf Jelf	
Brigadier-General Hugo Watson	

with power to add to their number.

5.—FUNERALS.

It was decided that the present rule regarding funerals of officers should stand as at present.

6.—NOMINATION OF SIX REPRESENTATIVE OFFICERS.

The following were elected for the year 1919:—

Major-General Sir Gerald Kitson, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G.
Colonel R. Byron, D.S.O.
Brigadier-General Rudolf Jelf.
Brigadier-General Hugo Watson.
Lieut.-Colonel Lewis G. W. Butler.
Captain Sir Thomas Troubridge, Bart

7.—RIFLEMAN'S AID SOCIETY.

Major-General Sir Gerald Kitson, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G., and Brig.-General Rudolf Jelf, D.S.O., were nominated to represent the Club upon the Committee of the Rifleman's Aid Society for 1919.

8.—WAR MEMORIAL.

The Report of the Special Committee, having been previously circulated among the members of the Committee, was discussed and recommended for consideration at the Annual General Meeting. Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell was requested to communicate with Major-General Sir Leopold Swaine, Senior Colonel Commandant of The Rifle Brigade, forwarding a copy of the Report of the Special Committee for the War Memorial, and to ask if the scheme of a Cloister, as suggested, commends itself to The Rifle Brigade. The Committee requested that the Hon. Secretary should forward a copy of the Report to the Commanding Officer of each Battalion of the Regiment, and ask his views, together with any suggestion which the Officers and Riflemen under his command may wish to bring forward.

9.—NEW RULE *re* MEMBERS FROM SPECIAL RESERVE AND SERVICE BATTALIONS.

As a considerable number of officers had been proposed and seconded for Membership under Rule 1, and the List was not available, the Committee decided that their election should rest with the Chairman, pending the approval of the next Committee Meeting.

10.—HONORARY SECRETARY.

The Committee learnt with deep regret of the sudden death of their recently appointed Hon. Secretary, Major John Flower, D.S.O., M.C. A Resolution of their deep sympathy with Mrs. Flower and the family was passed. Major-General Sir Gerald Kitson very kindly undertook to temporarily take up the duties until a permanent Hon. Secretary was appointed.

11.—LADIES' GUILD.

Lieut.-General Sir Edward Hutton read extracts from the Annual Report of the Ladies' Guild, also of—

The Clothing Branch and Central Supply Depot,
The Prisoners of War Fund,
The Association of Hospital Visitors for Riflemen,
The London Visiting Committee for Riflemen's Families,
The Committee of Ladies representative of every Battalion
of the Regiment.

Special reference also was made to the excellent work done for the Regiment by the K.R.R.C. and Clothing Depot, 86, Hyde Street, Winchester.

It was decided that the splendid services of the Ladies' Guild and its various Committees for 1918, and throughout the war, should be referred to the Annual General Meeting, and that a specially-worded Resolution be submitted on the subject, and entered in the Annual Report, for circulation accordingly.

RIFLEMEN'S AID SOCIETY.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1919.

The year ending December 31st, 1919, has been by far the most active and successful in the history of the Society. The developments of the scope of the Society decided upon at the Extraordinary General Meeting of February 8th, 1918, and elaborated by the Special Report of the Executive Committee then elected, dated June 30th, 1918, have now been carried into effect.

Your Committee have the fullest confidence in the soundness of the changes made and in the system of administration adopted for the work of the Society.

The result of the changes has been an enormous increase in the scope and work of the Society (*vide* paras. 2 and 6), and has been followed by a corresponding increase in its financial resources (*vide* para. 13).

The existence of the Society at the present moment is far more necessary than at any previous period. While advice and information for Riflemen of good character are found to be far more important under the new conditions than the allotment of temporary assistance, the advance of small sums of money is in many cases urgently needed to meet pressing circumstances, and in some cases to provide means for starting in trade or opening in business. The personnel of the Society is in close touch with the Government organisations for the welfare of the soldier, as well as with the larger organisations and philanthropic bodies which concern themselves with the well-being of the soldier in civil life. Great as the development has been since the opening of the Headquarters in London, in June, 1918, your Committee are fully alive to the fact that there is still a large field of usefulness awaiting the efforts of the Society. Its value is now becoming gradually known, and your Committee are convinced that the opportunities of doing important work for Riflemen of all degrees will largely increase during the next few years.

II.

Cases dealt with.—The total number of cases dealt with during 1919 was 2721, which is almost a fourfold increase on any previous year.

As showing the gradual growth of the Society's work, it might be mentioned that of this number 1140 cases were dealt with during the first six months of the year, and 1581 during the other six months, and that for the same periods the number of letters despatched from the office was 3000 and 4390 respectively.

It should be noted also, that although an applicant's case is only registered under one heading, it may necessitate action in more than one direction—i.e., men applying for pecuniary aid have in many instances had their cases taken up with the Ministry of Pensions, with a view to treatment allowances or increased pensions being granted, whilst others have been referred to the Ministry of Labour with a view to arrangements being made for training, etc.

III.

Employment.—The applications for employment during the year were as follows:—

			K.R.R.C.		R.B.
Number of applications	...	...	524	...	425
Employment found for	...	...	186	...	112

Great difficulty has been experienced in finding suitable employment for the men, owing to the unsettled state of the labour market generally, and to the fact that the majority of the men belong to the unskilled labour class, and many of them also are suffering from disabilities of various sorts. The figures shown, however, do not represent the actual number of those who have obtained employment, as in many cases, although not able to place men directly, the Society has been instrumental in getting them in touch with other bodies through whom employment has been obtained.

Every use is made of the Government Employment Agencies, and of the voluntary organisations dealing with employment.

In addition, the Committee have also assisted men to become self-supporting by making grants and loans for the purchase of instruments, tools, stocks, etc.

IV.

Pecuniary Assistance.—During the year the following applications for financial assistance were investigated and dealt with as stated:—

		Women and			Number	Amount
	Men	Children.	Total.	refused.	granted.	
K.R.R.C. ...	307	72	379	36	£806	19 6
R.B. ...	240	72	312	39	£554	18 6

These amounts include payments of fees for men taking a course of business training, school fees for children, additional maintenance grants for men earning a nominal wage during training, and temporary relief during times of distress. The grants are made in cases which, though deserving, are not eligible for grants from public funds.

The Committee have in addition advanced money to men, where the circumstances warranted it, to enable them to start in business or to develop existing businesses. The Committee are much gratified to find that the recipients of loans have in nearly every case made strenuous efforts to refund the amount advanced. The Committee are satisfied as to the advisability and soundness of this system of advances.

VI.

Pensions, Widows'.—The number of pensions granted to widows has been increased in The King's Royal Rifle Corps Branch from 18 to 20, and in The Rifle Brigade Branch from 12 to 13.

After careful consideration of the financial position of the two Branches, the Executive Committee decided in October last to increase the amount of pension by 1s. a week in each case, to meet the increased cost of living. This entails additional expenditure in The King's Royal Rifle Corps Branch of £36. 16s. per annum and in The Rifle Brigade Branch of £32 per annum.

VI.

Children.—Applications were received for the placing of eight children in schools, etc., and arrangements for their admission were made as follows:—

	K.R.R.C. R.B.					
Duke of York's School	1	—
Royal Military School, Dublin	—	...	4
Salvation Army School, Hampstead	—	...	3

VII.

Advice and Information.—As was to be expected, there has been a great increase in the numbers of men and their families requiring advice and information, no fewer than 1081 applications having been received.

Advice has been sought on the following subjects. Pensions, gratuities, proficiency pay, final settlements, medical treatment, allowances, training, emigration, grants from Government funds, etc., etc.

The applications connected with the final settlements of accounts, proficiency pay, etc., are referred to the Regimental Paymaster at Winchester, and your Committee wish to place on record their appreciation of the prompt and satisfactory manner in which all cases have been dealt with in that office. Many of the enquiries have necessitated a great deal of labour in the Paymaster's Office, but no effort has ever been spared to give the men concerned complete satisfaction. The readiness of the officers in charge of both Branches to expedite the issue of final settlements, gratuities, etc., has afforded the liveliest satisfaction to your Committee, and has been a source of gratification to the applicants.

Your Committee are also grateful for the co-operation and help invariably received from Lieut.-Colonel H. Ross, Rifle Brigade, O. i/c. Rifle Records, Winchester, and from the many Secretaries of the War Pensions Committees, and Managers of the Branches of the Ministry of Labour throughout the United Kingdom, with whom they have been in communication.

Full advantage has been taken of the fact that this Society now has its offices in London, and a great and increasing number of personal interviews with ex-Riflemen has been the result. The total number of such interviews during the six months ended December 31st has been 1068. As about 80% of the New Army recruits came from the London District the new Headquarters are likely to prove an increasing advantage, as these men will thus be able to explain their cases personally. Many of these cases are very complicated, and impossible to explain clearly by letter.

VIII.

Emigration and Land Settlement.—The Society has kept in close touch with the Government Home and Overseas Departments dealing with this matter, and has been able to supply all applicants with the latest regulations appertaining thereto, and all the necessary forms in connection therewith.

The scheme for training in mixed farming referred to on page 31 of the Annual Report for 1918, was re-cast upon generous and practical lines by the Government in July, 1919, and taken over entirely.

Arrangements were accordingly made in that month by the Society with the Government Departments of Education and of Agriculture for the officers and ex-officers of the two Regiments desirous of becoming farm students to be allotted as far as possible to officers of the Regiments who are landowners, through their local county organisers.

IX.

Advisory Committee.—The Advisory Committee appointed at Sheerness has been necessarily dissolved, by reason of the move of the four Special Reserve Battalions and their reversion to pre-war duties at Winchester. A new Advisory Committee is now in process of organisation upon exactly similar principles, composed of representative members of Regular Battalions and others serving at home. The Officer Commanding Rifle Depot has undertaken the duty of Chairman, and the Committee will assemble at Winchester or such other place as he may direct.

The names of the Advisory Committee for 1920 will be found in Appendix A.

X.

Officers.—The decision to assist officers, ex-officers and their dependants with advice as to employment, gratuities, war Pensions, etc., has been well justified—over 50 cases have been dealt with, and in several instances state pensions for officers' widows have been successfully arranged.

XI.

Ladies' Guilds.—The Association of Hospital Visitors for Riflemen has been re-organised by the Ladies' Guilds of both Regiments to meet the changed conditions of peace time.

Under arrangements made by Mrs. Fortescue on behalf of The King's Royal Rifle Corps, and by Mrs. Burnell-Nugent on behalf of The Rifle Brigade, 402 members of the Guilds have registered their names as willing to act as "Riflemen's Friends" in their own localities.

These ladies are directly in touch with the Riflemen's Aid Society, and their co-operation has proved most valuable to the Society, and beneficial to the Riflemen concerned and their families.

Your Committee desire to place on record their very hearty appreciation of this development of the Ladies' Guilds of both Regiments, and desire to convey their gratitude to those ladies who have taken upon themselves the responsible duties of "Riflemen's Friends."

Clothing.—(a) The Clothing Branches of both Regiments are now accommodated at Eccleston Square, and work in close connection with the Society, under the management of Mrs. Fortescue and of Miss Nowell Salmon. These ladies kindly provide clothes for women and children from their Regimental Guilds for cases recommended by your Committee.

250 garments have been despatched by The King's Royal Rifle Corps Guild and 253 from The Rifle Brigade Guild since the removal to Eccleston Square during the latter part of 1919.

(b) In addition, over 400 garments have been issued direct by the Society.

XII.

Publicity.—(a) The question of Press notices as dealt with by para. 9 of the Report of the Special Executive Committee, dated June 30th, 1918, was further considered by your Committee on October 29th, and a sum not exceeding £100 was allotted for this purpose. It was decided that advertisements should be inserted in all the leading London and provincial papers, and also that a carefully prepared statement, giving the aims and objects of the Society, together with certain details regarding the recent developments should be sent with a covering letter to the editors of certain leading newspapers.

This arrangement was carried out in December, and the results were entirely satisfactory. An enormous increase in the applications for advice and assistance from all parts of the kingdom has resulted. The number of personal interviews has increased to a corresponding degree, and as many as 47 ex-Riflemen have been personally interviewed in one day.

The great majority of these applicants had left the Regiments either on discharge or temporary transfer to other regiments before the re-organisation in 1918, and had consequently been unaware of the increased activities of the Society and of the removal to London.

(b) In October, 1919, your Committee approved of a new, up-to-date and enlarged leaflet to take the place of the one dated August 1st, 1918. These leaflets were distributed to all Battalions and to the various civilian organisations.

XIII.

Finance.—On December the 31st, 1919, the assets of the Society were £52,953. 4s. 7d., showing an increase of £14,082. 5s. 10d. since December 31st, 1918, whilst the actual available capital, exclusive of property on the same date, amounted to £49,071. 9s. 11d., an increase of £14,193. 13s. 6d. The income of the Society has increased from £2712. 0s. 7d. in 1918 to £3784. 18s. 11d. in 1919.

XIV.

Administration.—The appointment of Captain Leo. M. Myers as Hon. Organising Secretary terminated upon May 31st, 1919. This gentleman had held the appointment since May 1st, 1918. His general knowledge, business experience, and financial ability, placed gratuitously at the disposal of your Committee, are universally appreciated by the members of the Riflemen's Aid Society.

The following remarks were made by the Chairman, General Rt. Hon. Sir Neville Lyttelton, and by Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, at the General Meeting of the Society on March 26th, 1919:—

General Sir Neville Lyttelton:

"Captain Myers has rendered extremely valuable services to the Society. He has spared neither time, health, nor trouble in making the new developments a success. He may rest assured that his services have been most thoroughly appreciated. A very great and comprehensive development has been made in the work of the Society, and its success is largely due to Captain Myers."

Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell:

"Captain Myers, our Hon. Organising Secretary, has performed a most difficult task, and has started our Society in its new home upon its enlarged basis under the most favourable conditions. It is due to the zeal and knowledge of Captain Myers that so large a measure of success has attended our recent developments."

Realising from their position the unusual character of his service as Hon. Organising Secretary, and cordially endorsing the opinions above expressed, your Committee raised a special subscription and presented Captain Myers at a meeting on June 26th, 1919, with a Queen Anne silver cup, suitably inscribed.

XV.

Headquarters: 71, *Eccleston Square.*—The Committee Rooms have been frequently used by the War Memorial Committees, Ladies' Guilds, and other Regimental Committees, and have proved most useful to the two Regiments.

Certain rooms are also set apart for the Regimental Clubs and the Ladies' Guilds of both Regiments. The garage is let at £70 per annum, and the total rent received by the Society from all sources is now £109. 15s., which is £9. 15s. per annum more than the amount set aside annually for the cost of the lease.

XVI.

Executive Committee.—Owing to absence from London and other causes, several members of the Executive Committee were reluctantly obliged to tender their resignations during the latter part of the year.

Their resignations were accepted with regret, and officers as under were appointed to act on the Executive Committee pending their re-election at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with Rule IX (1):—

The King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Major-General Sir S. W. Hare, K.C.B., *vice*

Major-General Sir G. Kitson, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G.

Brig.-General R. S. Oxley, C.B., C.M.G., *vice*

Brig.-General H. R. Mends, C.B.

Captain Leo. M. Myers *vice* Major W. Judge.

The Rifle Brigade.

Major Hon. E. C. Lascelles, D.S.O., M.C., *vice*

Colonel Lord Henniker.

Major R. G. C. Glyn, M.C., M.P., *vice*

Major Sir Charles Hunter, Bart.

By Order of the Committee,

W. JUDGE, Lieut.-Col.,

Secretary.

71, ECCLESTON SQUARE, S.W. 1,

March 17th, 1920.

AUTRES TEMPS, AUTRES MŒURS.

The following paragraphs taken from the Diary of an officer present at the time, representing extracts from General Orders to the Army of Occupation, give an idea of military life in Montreal, between the capture of the city by Sir J. Amherst and the conclusion of peace. The initials R.A. refer of course to our own regiment "The Royal Americans."

I. *February 26th, 1762.*

"Mr. Grant and Mr. Edward Chinn, Merchants in the City of Montreal, having been tried by the General Court Martial, whereof Major Munster of the 4th R.A. Battalion is president, for having conjunctly abused, assaulted and otherwise ill-treated Ensign Nott of the 4th R. A. Battalion, are found guilty. Grant to be fined £30 and Chinn £20, which sums the Court doth appoint to be disposed of as the General shall direct among the poor and distressed persons in the Government of Montreal. The Court doth further adjudge that Grant and Chinn shall in the most public manner before the Garrison of Montreal severally ask pardon of Ensign Nott in the following words: 'Ensign Nott, I am sorry I have been guilty of assaulting you and do most humbly ask your pardon for it.' The General approves but thinks proper to mitigate the fine from £30 to £20 and from £20 to £13, which sums are to be paid into the hands of the Town Major of Montreal, to be afterwards disposed of as the Court hath appointed. Grant and Chinn will on Saturday morning next on the Parade at the time of mounting the Guard ask pardon of Ensign Nott in the words specified, in presence of one Field Officer, two Captains, and four Subalterns at least of the Garrison."

"Mr. Forest Oakes, Merchant in the City of Montreal was also tried for insulting and giving abusive language to Ensign Nott, and for having cast several scurrilous reflections on His Majesty's Army. The Court adjudges Mr. Oakes to be confined in the custody of the Provost Martial for 14 days for the scurrilous reflections cast by him on the Army, and that before his confinement he shall publickly ask pardon of Mr. Nott in these words: 'Ensign Nott, I ask your pardon for the ill language I was guilty of to you.' The General approves, but thinks proper that Mr. Oakes should be released from custody after 24 hours, upon his finding security for his good behaviour for the remainder of the time of his committment, and in consideration that insult

and abusive language appear to have been reciprocal between the partys, the General thinks proper to excuse Mr. Oakes from asking the pardon of Ensign Nott."

II. *March 2nd.*

"Colonel James Prevost to be Colonel of the 1st Battalion R.A. Lieut.-Colonel Marcus Smith of the Royal English Fuzileers to be Colonel of the 4th R.A. Captain Henry Gladwin of the 80th or Regiment of Light Armed Foot to be Major of it."

III. *April 29th, 1762.*

"War is to be declared to-morrow against Spain, for which purpose the Grenadier and the Light Infantry Companies, colours, drums and fifes of the Battalion will assemble before the Government House at 9 o'clock, when the war will be first declared, and afterwards in the Market Place and on the Parade; the Artillery to fire 7 guns after each proclamation; the procession will march from the Government House in the following order:—

A Corporal and six Grenadiers clear the way.

A Gunner properly accoutred and match lighted.

A Company of Grenadiers. The music of the 46th.

Ensigns with the Colours. Drums and fifes of the Battalion.

Town Major and Colonel of Militia on horseback.

The Military Officers (if any chosen to go).

Captains of Militia. Merchants. Light Infantry Company."

IV. *May 4th.*

"The prisoner, Baptist Shorap, convicted of being concerned in taking down his Majesty's Declaration of War against Spain and treating the same with the highest insolence and indignity, is to be flogged to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock at the Cartstail through the town by the executioner; he is to receive a hundred lashes opposite to the Provosts'; a hundred opposite to the Town Major's; another hundred near Captain Wharton's Quarters, and a hundred at the Market Place directly opposite the place where the Proclamation was put up. The Provost with a Corporal and six men will attend this punishment and see it duly executed."

V. *August 26th.*

"Recruits given to the 4th R. Americans and the 80th are intituled to a bounty from the King of £5 New York currency over and above what they have received from the Province; and the Provincial Officer who inlisted them a reward of 40/- like money."

VI. *October 29th.*

(On the occasion of the birth of the Prince of Wales.)

"Three Royal Salutes will be fired this evening at Sunset; each Salute will be answered by the Musquetry of the Regiment by a rejoicing fire."

VII. *June 16th, 1768.*

"Louis Mercier, inhabitant, for using false weights, to receive a hundred lashes on the bare back at the cartstail by the hands of the common executioners; his beef to be confiscated. The General approves of the confiscation of the beef, is pleased to remit the corporal punishment, and orders the beef to be sent to the Recolets, giving 8lbs. of it to the Soldier, James Reid, of Captain Abercromby's Company."

VIII. *February 5th.*

"Baptist Junot for insulting Captain Haultain of the 4th R.A. Battalion to pay five dollars and to suffer 14 days' imprisonment. The General approves, but at the desire of Captain Haultain remits the imprisonment."

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

As the demand for the *Annals of The King's Royal Rifle Corps* is so small, we are under the impression that the existence of this work is not known as it should be amongst the present generation of Riflemen. Volume I, edited by Lieut.-Colonel Lewis Butler, P.S.C., late of The King's Royal Rifle Corps, and published by John Murray, 50, Albemarle Street, London, W., was produced a few years ago, together with an appendix dealing with uniform, etc., and illustrated in colour. Further particulars are given in the notice published at the beginning of this Volume. The book is full of matter of the most absorbing interest, and a copy should be in the hands of every officer, past or present, of the Regiment.

As Princess Christian has always given the greatest possible assistance to the Ladies' Guild, and to other matters connected with the Regiment, so on the occasion of her birthday Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell sent her a congratulatory letter, to which the following reply was received:—

Dear Lord Grenfell,

Many thanks for your letter; may I ask you to express my congratulations to all ranks of The King's Royal Rifles, as well as to the Ladies' Guild, for their kind remembrances on my birthday, and for their congratulations, which I greatly appreciate.

Believe me,

Most sincerely yours,

HELENA.

We congratulate Lieut.-General Sir T. N. Morland, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., on being appointed to succeed Sir William Robertson as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the British Army on the Rhine. General Sir Thomas Morland commanded the 2nd London Division of the Territorial Force in 1914, having previously been Brig.-General commanding the 2nd Infantry Brigade at Aldershot from 1910 to 1913. During the War he was twice mentioned in despatches, received the K.C.B. in 1915, and was made a K.C.M.G. in 1917, and promoted to the rank of Lieut.-General.

It is with much regret and sympathy that we have to record an unfortunate accident which occurred to General Sir Edward Northey whilst playing Polo at Nairobi in October last, whereby he suffered the loss of his right eye; we are glad to hear, however, that the misfortune will not prevent him from resuming his duties as Governor of British East Africa, where his personality and tactful administration have gained for him such signal success.

The Riflemen's Aid Society are greatly indebted to Mrs. Foster Cunliffe for a most generous donation of £5000 to their funds, presented in memory of her son, Geoffrey Dowling, who was killed in action on the 30th July, 1915. The Regiment as a whole greatly appreciate this handsome addition to the funds of the Society, the more so as it comes at a moment when the scope of their activities are being considerably increased with very gratifying results.

An interesting operation recently took place in the form of a test mobilisation concentration march by the first Cadet Battalion of The King's Royal Rifle Corps; after assembling at four different points the Cadets proceeded to Hyde Park, just inside the Marble Arch, where they were timed to concentration at 5 o'clock. The promptitude with which the four Companies arrived was remarkable, two reaching the Rendezvous exactly at the hour, one a minute, and the fourth less than two minutes late. This Battalion is the oldest Cadet Battalion in the Country, and its War record is highly creditable. It has contributed to the fighting forces 120 officers and 4800 other ranks, and can boast of 3 V.C.'s, 6 D.S.O.'s, 10 M.C.'s, 7 D.S.M.'s, 5 M.M.'s, 1 Legion of Honour; 1 French, 1 Italian and 1 Belgian Croix de Guerre.

We have, with much regret, to record the death of a fine old Rifleman, in the person of the late Quartermaster-Sergeant James Gaffney. He enlisted in the 60th Rifles in 1868 and was promoted to the rank of Corporal the following year. An expert in Gymnastics and Fencing he was soon employed as an Instructor. In 1875 he was appointed Colour-Sergeant and three years later Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant. Gaffney then saw active service in the Zulu War, the first Boer War, being present at the fight at Ingogo and the affair at Majuba, and later served in the Egyptian Campaign, 1882. Leaving his Battalion at Cairo, he went to the 7th Battalion at Barnet in 1884 and did duty as

Quartermaster-Sergeant until 1891. He then retired from the Army to go to Eton, June, 1891, as Clerk to the Headmaster (Rev. Dr. Warre), on whose retirement in 1905 he served in the same office to the Rev. The Hon. E. Lyttelton, his successor, who permitted Mr. Gaffney to retire in 1910 and appointed his son-in-law to succeed him. On his retirement he received many tokens of esteem, including a tea and coffee silver service from the Masters of Eton College. On the outbreak of the War, 1914, his son-in-law wrote and asked Mr. Gaffney to come back into the office again while he joined up, Dr. Lyttelton assenting to the arrangement. Mr. Gaffney agreed, and in spite of advancing years and failing health continued the very arduous work for four years, during which time a new Headmaster was appointed (Dr. C. A. Alington), so that he has served successively under three Headmasters (Dr. Warre, Dr. Lyttelton and Dr. Alington). On his final retirement in 1918, after the release of his successor from the Army, Mr. Gaffney was presented by the Provost of Eton (Dr. M. James) with his portrait (painted in oils by Mr. Strang, the well-known artist).

MEDALS.

1. Zululand—1879.
2. Egyptian—1882.
3. Khedive's Star—1882.
4. Distinguished Conduct (Mentioned in Despatches).
5. Good Conduct Medal.
6. Meritorious Service Medal.

Appointed Yeoman Warder, Tower of London, 1892.

OBITUARY.

LIEUT.-COLONEL RICHARD NEVILE ABADIE, D.S.O.

Born in November, 1881, and educated at Eton, Abadie was gazetted to the Regiment in 1900, and joined the 1st Battalion and took part in the operations in Natal, March to June of that year, receiving the Queen's Medal and Clasp. After serving in Ceylon and India, he returned to England and was quartered at Gosport and Aldershot, being appointed Adjutant to the 2nd Battalion in 1905, and in November, 1912, was appointed Brigade-Major to the 1st Staffordshire Infantry Brigade.

On the outbreak of the European War he was still serving on the Staff of the North Midland Division, then commanded by General Sir E. Stuart-Wortley, and being promoted to field rank, proceeded to France in 1915 and in the following year was appointed to command the 2nd Battalion, which appointment he held until that fateful July 10th, 1917, when he met his death at Nieuport Bains.

He was the fourth son of the late Major-General H. R. Abadie, C.B., 9th Lancers, and Mrs. Abadie, and was twice mentioned in despatches, in addition to being awarded the D.S.O. for his services.

It was as a commander and leader of men that Richard Abadie's excellent qualities were brought into prominence. A personality which filled all ranks with enthusiasm, not only during their training periods, but also when the more serious business was to hand, was a great asset to any regiment. Cheerful at all times and cool in emergency, his inspiring example never shone brighter than on the day of his death when for the second time on the Fields of Flanders the 2nd Battalion died almost to a man.

MAJOR CROMER ASHBURNHAM.

Major Cromer Ashburnham was the son of Major-General Sir Cromer Ashburnham, K.C.B., late Colonel Commandant of the 3rd Battalion, and was born in 1866 and educated at Cowley College and Sandhurst, where he was Captain of the Rugby XV. Ashburnham joined the Regiment in 1886, and after serving as Adjutant was employed with the Egyptian Army and later with the Uganda Protectorate, seeing his first war service with the Unyoro Expedition in 1895 and being awarded the Medal.

From 1900-1902 he saw further war service in the South African War, being present at the action at Laings Nek, Belfast

and Lydenburg, receiving the Queen's Medal with two clasps. At the termination of this campaign he was employed with the West African Frontier Force and retired in 1904.

During the European War Ashburnham was appointed Second in Command of the 7th Battalion and went to France with that unit, afterwards serving with 14th Reserve until he resigned his commission on account of ill-health during the summer of 1916 and died on September 11th, 1919.

Cromer Ashburnham was a man of varied tastes and interests, a member of the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Institution. Last year he was asked to read a paper at the Meeting of the British Association on his excavations in Dorset; but owing to failing health he was unable to do so. It is believed that he was the first white man to visit the Ripon Falls after Sir Samuel Baker and the first to attempt the ascent of Ruwenzori Mountain, which task he had to abandon at the snow line owing to his porters being insufficiently clothed.

MAJOR H. J. FLOWER, D.S.O., M.C.

The fourth son of the late Mr. Arthur Flower and of Mrs. Arthur Flower, John Flower was born in 1883.

Educated at Winchester and Sandhurst, he was gazetted to the Regiment on the 22nd October, 1902 and joined the 3rd Battalion at Machadadorp early in 1903. For many years he remained with this Battalion, serving in South Africa, Cork, Bermuda, Aldershot, Malta, Crete and India.

He was at the Rifle Depot for a short time in 1910 and 1911. In 1911 he returned again to the 3rd Battalion in India. At the end of that year he came home on leave, and on January 30th, 1912, he married Richenda Barclay, a daughter of Mr. Hugh Gurney Barclay, of Colney Hall, Norwich, and of the late Mrs. Barclay.

In 1913 he was appointed Adjutant of the 16th Battalion The London Regiment, Queen's Westminster Rifles, and the outbreak of war in 1914 found him still holding this appointment.

After mobilization and training he went to France with this Battalion in November, 1914, and with it took part in the fighting up to the Second Battle of Ypres. For his services here he was awarded the Military Cross.

Soon afterwards he was appointed Brigade-Major to the 85th Brigade and was present at the Battle of Loos. It was at Loos that he received the wound from which he never properly recovered and which eventually caused his death. After Loos he was awarded the D.S.O. and was in hospital for a time in England.

At first he refused to recognise that his injury, a wound in the head, was very serious, and impatiently looked for the return of the strength and vitality to which he had always been accustomed.

His eager, impetuous nature fretted and chafed as he gradually realised that it was not to be and that in future he would be unfit for service in the field. He did his best at the War Office, but he was unsuited to office work and it made him worse. In the end he was obliged to give it up, and was invalided out of the Army.

For a time the rest seemed to do him good and his friends all hoped that he might really recover, but he died rather suddenly and quite peacefully on February 1st, 1919.

Gay, generous, good-looking, and full of enthusiasm, John Flower gained many friends. To these and to the Regiment his death is a great loss.

CAPTAIN C. G. FRYER, J.P.

Captain Charles Gilbert Fryer died at his residence, Worthy Park, Winchester, on September 23rd, 1919, in his 80th year. The second son of the Rev. H. E. Fryer, of Burley Wood, East Woodhay, Hampshire, he joined the Regiment in 1857, and after serving in India and other stations in the East retired with the rank of Captain, shortly after his marriage to the only daughter of Mr. George Alfred Ellis Wall, of Worthy Park.

Like so many other old Riflemen his retirement did not sever his connection with the Regiment and until the day of his death he took a most cordial interest in all that affected his past and present friends in the 60th.

MAJOR SIR FREDERIC HARDING ANSON HAMILTON.

Major Fred. Hamilton was born in September, 1836, and served in the Regiment, retiring with the rank of Major. Most of his service was spent in the 4th Battalion, where his skill at games and sport, combined with his genial personality, gained him a well-deserved popularity.

CAPTAIN HOLMES.

After thirty years' service, of which twenty-four were spent abroad, there passed away on February 1st, 1919, Captain Holmes, of Dilkoosha, Scottsdale, Tasmania. Born in Ireland in 1832, he joined the 2nd Battalion in 1849 and served in the Kaffir war 1851-53, the Indian Mutiny, China, 1860, being present at the taking of the Taku Forts, the surrender of Peking, and the burning of the Emperor's Palace.

Later he served in Afghanistan, 1878–80, and for his distinguished services received four medals, three clasps, and a bronze star, together with the Meritorious Service Medal.

In 1881 Captain Holmes came to Tasmania and settled in the Scottsdale district, where he resided until his death.

DOCTOR W. M. HARMAN.

It is with great regret we have to record the death at the age of 77 of Dr. W. M. Harman, late 60th Rifles, retired Brigade-Surgeon Lieut.-Colonel, which took place at 15, Christ Church Road, Winchester, on February 12th, 1919, after a short illness.

Harman joined the 4th Battalion as Regimental Surgeon in Canada in 1866, and came home with them in 1869 to Aldershot. Later he accompanied the 4th Battalion to India in 1876, doing fine work during the outbreak of cholera at Agra in 1877. Harman saw further war service in Afghanistan in 1879–80, for which he received the medal and clasp.

He was devoted to the Regiment, and in return his genial Irish nature and kindness of heart endeared him greatly to all ranks, more especially to the women and children.

He was one of the Executive Committee of the Riflemen's Aid Society, and for many years professionally attended the Riflemen and their families at the Rifle Cottages without any remuneration.

On his retirement, about 1887, he settled down in Winchester, and became well known as one of the Hon. Physicians to the Royal Hants County Hospital; his skill was held in great esteem and he continued Hon. Consulting Physician until his death.

During the War he was Chairman of a Medical Board at the Southern Command Discharge Depot, Winchester.

He was for over twenty years a member of the Hampshire Field Club and Archæological Society, and regularly attended their Meetings.

The funeral took place at Winchester, where his remains were conducted to their last resting place by eight Sergeants from the Depot, who acted as pall bearers, and were laid to rest in the presence of many of his oldest friends who had served with him in the 4th Battalion.

CAPTAIN A. PEPYS.

Arthur Pepys joined the 1st Battalion of the Regiment in 1865, and retired in 1877. General Pemberton, a friend of his family, was his sponsor. He joined when the Regiment was in Ireland, at the Curragh, and came with it from thence to

Malta. He played in the Eton Eleven in 1863, the year before he joined the Regiment, and was a great acquisition to the cricket of the 1st Battalion. At Malta Captain Wallace initiated the practice of placing cocoanut matting between the wickets and making cricket possible on the hard surface of the Floriana parade ground, and the 1st Battalion won many matches. This, it is believed, was the first attempt in this experiment, but was afterwards taken up in many cricket grounds abroad.

At Malta he devoted himself to art, he and Lieut. Grenfell working in a studio together, and he became a fairly good painter.

His particular friends in the Regiment were Davis, Mitchell Innes, Martin, Powys Keck, Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Fraser and Grenfell. He was a very good shot at the target, and useful in training his Company in Musketry, and won the Double Rackets with another officer for the Regiment against the Garrison at Malta, and next to Wallace was the best cricketer we had.

Pepys was a universal favourite, and took his part in all sport that was possible in Ireland, Malta and Canada, and was an excellent Company Officer.

When the Regiment proceeded to Canada, leaving Malta while a cholera epidemic was raging, Pepys, Grenfell, Eaton, Mitchell Innes and Davis, who were on leave in England, rejoined the Regiment in the same steamer, landing at Portland, Maine, and proceeded to Montreal, where he soon became one of our best skaters.

Well off, he always had good horses and was a keen rider to Hounds, and when he left us in 1877 he bought a stud of Hunters and hunted from Sherborne with Sir Richard Glyn, afterwards with the Quorn. He married the daughter of the Rev. J. Lomax, and later in life it was a great disappointment to him when his eldest son was unable to get a commission in the Regiment, there being no vacancy for over three months. He was gazetted into the Yorkshire Light Infantry, the second son joining the 52nd. Both were first-rate cricketers, good horsemen, and both were killed in the War.

His third son served in the War in the Devons, for some time commanded a Battalion, but has now resumed his rank of Lieutenant in the Devonshire Regiment.

Pepys had a charming personality, keen on every kind of sport, a good officer during the thirteen years he served in the Regiment, and died March 12th, 1920, to the great regret of the few officers remaining who had served with him in the Regiment.

He had settled in Devonshire, at Budleigh Salterton, and took much interest in County affairs.

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